FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 168 *29 August 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH Calls for Palestinian Unity [VOP]	A	1	1/A7
Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam Receives PFLP Leaders	A	2	1/A8
'Arafat Meets With Amir, Foreign Minister of Kuwait	A	2	1/A8
Leaves Kuwait	A	2	1/A8
OCTOBER: Yemen Conciliation Planned; Cuban Force in PDRY	A	2	1/A8
Palestinian Delegation Arrives in PDRY	A	3	1/A9
Palestinians Acknowledge Israeli Capture of Guerrillas	A	3	1/A9
Algerian Envoy Briefs PLO Official on Contacts in Iraq [VOP]	A	3	1/A9
'Arafat Receives Memo From West Bank Leaders [VOP]	A	3	1/A9
INA: Arab Students in U.S. Expel PLO Official From Conference	A	4	1/A10
VOP Notes Guerrilla Activities in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv [VOP]	A	4	1/A10
UAE To Attend Arab League Council Meeting 12 Sep	A	4	1/A10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Defense Minister Denies Kuwaitis in USSR for Training	C	1	1/A11

QATAR

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives in Doha, Makes Statement	C	1	1/A11

UAE

Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Arrives for Oil Talks	C	1	1/A11
YAR Foreign Minister Arrives With Message for President	C	2	1/A12
Talks With Foreign Minister	C	2	1/A12
Comments on 'Arafat's Mediation	C	2	1/A12
Leaves for Doha	C	3	1/A13
Iranian Ambassador Delivers Shah's Message to President	C	3	1/A13
Oil Minister Meets With U.S. Ambassador, Others	C	3	1/A13

EGYPT

Kamil Completes Review of Documents on Middle East	D	1	1/A14
Position Outlined	D	1	1/A14
INA: Progressive Unionist Grouping Opposes Camp David Talks	D	1	1/A14
'Senior Source' Discusses Formation of National Democratic Party [AL-AKHBAR 22 Aug]	D	2	1/B1
Opposition Party Paper AL-AHRAR Fails To Appear	D	3	1/B2
Briefs: U.S. Housing Aid	D	3	1/B2

IRAQ

Suspected Iranian Arsonist Apprehended in Iraq	E 1	1/B3
INA: U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Transferred to Morocco	E 1	1/B3
INA Reports on Arrest of Palestinian Fighters in S. Lebanon	E 1	1/B3
Envoy Signs Financial Agreement With Turkey	E 2	1/B4
GDR State Secretary Arrives in Baghdad	E 2	1/B4
Discussions Held	E 2	1/B4
Finance Minister Meets With Chadian Minister of Economy	E 3	1/B5
Iraq Grants Loan to Chad	E 3	1/B5
Chadian Minister Leaves	E 3	1/B5
Mauritanian Envoy Arrives in Baghdad With Message for Al-Bakr	E 4	1/B6
Meets With Saddam Husayn	E 4	1/B6
Bilateral Relations Discussed	E 4	1/B6
Envoy Leaves Baghdad	E 4	1/B6

JORDAN

King Husayn Sends Message to President Carter	F 1	1/B7
King's Envoy Returns From Delivering Message to Al-Asad	F 1	1/B7
AD-DUSTUR: Camp David Test of Strength Between U.S., Israel [28 Aug]	F 1	1/B7
AD-DUSTUR on Significance of Camp David Summit [29 Aug]	F 2	1/B8

LEBANON

Foreign Minister Butrus Comments on Talks in Syria	G 1	1/B9
Beirut Radio Quotes Al-Asad on Talks With Butrus	G 1	1/B9
Lebanese, UN Officials Meet, Discuss South Lebanon [Voice of Lebanon]	G 2	1/B10
Speaker Reports Results of Parliamentary Meeting	G 2	1/B10
Pierre Al-Jumayyil To Meet Sarkis Tomorrow [Voice of Lebanon]	G 3	1/B11
Bashir Al-Jumayyil Returns to Beirut From Paris [Voice of Lebanon]	G 3	1/B11
Meets With Sham'un [Voice of Lebanon]	G 3	1/B11
Denounces Syrian Role [Voice of Lebanon]	G 3	1/B11
INA: Franjiyah, Karami, Junblatt To Meet	G 4	1/B12
Work at Beirut Port Returning to Normal [Voice of Lebanon]	G 4	1/B12
Voice of Lebanon: Syrian Forces Enter Al-Arz Area	G 4	1/B12
Shell Army Barracks	G 4	1/B12
Deterrent Forces' Communique	G 5	1/B13
Security Situation Report by VOL Early 29 August	G 5	1/B13
Voice of Lebanon: Israel Gives Negative Reply on South	G 6	1/B14
INA Reports Israeli Shelling in S. Lebanon	G 6	1/B14
Rightist Military Movements	G 6	1/B14
INA: French Citizens in Lebanon Being Advised To Leave	G 6	1/B14
French Embassy Denial [Voice of Lebanon]	G 6	1/B14

SYRIA

Damascus TISHRIN Comments on Camp David Summit	H 1	1/C1
Al-Asad Answers Questions of Lebanese Journalists	H 1	1/C1
Lebanese Foreign Minister Departs Following Talks With Al-Asad	H 3	1/C3
Kuwaiti Daily Says Khaddam To Seek USSR Military Guarantees	H 3	1/C3
Minister Grants Interview to AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI	H 4	1/C4
Damascus Radio: Plots Against Syria Through Lebanon Failed	H 7	1/C7
Jordanian Envoy Conveys Husayn Message to Al-Asad	H 8	1/C8
Visiting PRC Minister Received by President Al-Asad	H 8	1/C8
Lauds President's Efforts in Lebanon	H 8	1/C8
Concludes Visit	H 9	1/C9
Defense Minister Lauds Tactical Exercise	H 9	1/C9

NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO

Boucetta Reviews Arab Maghreb Developments I 1 1/C10
MAP Reviews Activities Concerning W. Sahara I 2 1/C11

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO Delegation Arrives in Bamako I 2 1/C11
Meets With President I 3 1/C12
POLISARIO Leader Receives Messages From DPRK, Cyprus I 3 1/C12

BRIEFS

Benghazi Port Enlargement I 3 1/C12

ISRAEL

Camp David Delegation Authorized To Negotiate Position [HA'AREZ 28 Aug] N 1 1/C13
Hopes for Summit ['AL HAMISHMAR 28 Aug] N 1 1/C13
'Amit Will Not Join Democratic Movement N 1 1/C13
DAVAR Comments on New Likud Political Thinking [25 Aug] N 2 1/C14
National Leaders Discuss Lebanon Situation N 3 1/D1
Arens on Lebanon Crisis N 4 1/D2
Intervention Urged N 5 1/D3
Christian Spokesman Interviewed on Syrian Attacks N 6 1/D4
Navy Seizes 'Terrorist' Boat off Northern Coast N 7 1/D5
Curfew Imposed in Refugee Camp Near Nabulus [MA'ARIV 28 Aug] N 7 1/D5
Police Step Up Precautions in Wake of Terrorist Acts N 7 1/D5
Ra'anan Weitz Interviewed on His Settlement Views N 7 1/D5
MAPAM, Gush Emunim on Weitz Statement N 9 1/D7
Labor Party Opposes Weitz N 9 1/D7
Weitz Criticizes Labor Party N 10 1/D8
Zionist Executive Rejects Weitz Plan [POST 29 Aug] N 10 1/D8
Egyptian Architects To Renovate Al-Aqsa Mosque N 11 1/D9

IRAN

Prime Minister Discusses Government Priorities R 1 1/D10
Interviewed After Cabinet Meeting R 3 1/D12
Tehran: Iraq Arrests Perpetrator of Abadan Cinema Fire R 4 1/D13
Prime Minister Announces Iran To Use Religious Calendar R 4 1/D13
'Id al-Fitr Declared Official Holiday R 4 1/D13
Deputy Secretary of Rastakhiz Party Named R 4 1/D13
Four Army Officers To Be Retired 23 September R 4 1/D13

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

PDP Political Bureau Meets; Three New Ministers Named S 1 1/D14
AFP: Over 100 Killed in Government, Rightist Clashes S 1 1/D14
Taraki Addresses Party Secretaries 24 August S 1 1/D14

BANGLADESH

PRC Trade Delegation Feted at Dacca Banquet S 2 1/E1

INDIA

AFP: Pakistani Troops Fire on Indian-Controlled Kashmir S 2 1/E1
Delhi Reports 165 Arrested in Hyderabad Violence S 2 1/E1
Situation Under Control S 3 1/E2
No Evidence of Radiation From Nanda Devi Device S 3 1/E2
Desai on Tarapore Plant S 3 1/E2
Agreement on Radio, TV Cooperation Signed With SRV S 4 1/E3
Technical Mission To Visit SRV To Study Cooperation S 4 1/E3
Trade Talks Opened With PRC Representatives S 5 1/E4

PAKISTAN

AFP: 16 Arrested in Karachi Protesting Press Policies S 5 1/E4
Second White Paper Issued on Bhutto Misdeeds S 5 1/E4

BRIEFS

Afghan Oil, Gas Deposits; Afghan News Agency Head; Pakistan Shipping Delegation to PRC; Soviet Delegation in Pakistan; Japanese Grants to Nepal; Algerian Delegation in India S 7 1/E6

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63

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FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN UNITY

JN272055Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1720 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Under the headline "National Unity for the Revolution, for Palestine," FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, the PLO central organ, writes in its weekly issue to be released tomorrow, Monday: This is not the first time that a serious dialog has been held among the factions of the Palestinian revolution to reach a better form of national unity within the framework of the PLO. For the past 13 years, since the eruption of the revolution, formulas, projects and programs have been formulated for national unity. However, external factors and their negative consequences impeded the implementation of many of these formulas, preventing the establishment of a genuine and comprehensive unity on the political, military and organizational levels.

The Arab reality casts its shadow, with all its negative aspects, on the Palestinian arena, leaving its stamp and impeding the aspirations of the Palestinian people to achieve the unity of their revolutionary forces within the framework of the PLO.

The truth is that the realization of any national unity does not necessarily demand total identity of stands and policies as a condition. But it does set agreement on a joint program as a condition. This is what has always happened in the Palestinian arena. Each organization has retained its absolute independence, despite the common program which put an end to the personal whims and interests of this or that organization.

These subjective and objective obstacles in the path of national unity do not mean that there is no scope for unity or that we should be resigned to negative repercussions in the arena. The organizations have wide scope for varied forms of national unity. These forms rest on objective foundations which--although they might revolve around a certain individual--constitute a basis for a common and wide meeting among the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

Under no circumstances should the political conflict or future programs be transformed into a conflict, or a cover for a conflict, that harms the existence of the revolution. When any faction falls into this mortal sin, it will be implementing a hostile scheme against the unity of the field and should be stopped at all costs.

If we should pause at the recent incidents fabricated by the Iraqi regime and intelligence organs against the Palestinian revolution, we would find that some people have been unable to distinguish between the line of terrorism and that of revolution, falling in the trap of the allegation circulated by the Iraqi regime, that there is internal, intra-Palestinian fighting.

We believe that unity is needed to protect and safeguard the existence of the revolution and the security of the masses. Unity is needed to confront the impending threat in Lebanon at the hands of the Sham'unist-Phalangist-Israeli alliance. A common program which constitutes a groundwork for agreement on these tasks is rejected only by those who do not want the revolution to continue.

The framework of the PLO guarantees everyone ideological and organizational independence and the right to canvass support for the separate programs. It is not the fault of the revolution if a certain faction represents the large majority of the Palestinian people while another represents the minority.

In accordance with international practice, a minority cannot deviate from the framework or form an alternative framework. It should respect the will of its people and struggle to convince the masses of the soundness of its programs and stands. It should not issue invalid bills of indictment or act against the framework whose banner is raised by the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people support the unity which respects the revolution and serves Palestine. Our people support national unity for the revolution and for Palestine. Everyone should respect the will of the Palestinian people.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RECEIVES PFLP LEADERS

JN261529Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Salah Salah and Bassam Abu Sharif, Politburo members of the PFLP. Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad attended. Bassam Abu Sharif said that during the meeting, they discussed political developments in the Arab area and the latest developments of the situation in Lebanon. They also discussed the question of Palestinian national unity. It was emphasized that it is necessary for this unity to embrace all factions of the Palestinian resistance movement. The official spokesman of the PFLP described the atmosphere of the talks as positive. He said the views were identical.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER OF KUWAIT

LD281100Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At As-Sif Palace at 1130 this morning, his highness the amir received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their visit to the country. The audience was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, Mr Yasir 'Arafat explained in detail to his highness the amir the position of the PLO on general developments in the current Arab situation.

Leaves Kuwait

JN290827Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0825 GMT 29 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Aug--Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Kuwait last night following a 1-day private visit. In a statement before leaving, Yasir 'Arafat expressed hope that amity and accord will prevail in the Arab world, because the Arab nation is in dire need of solidarity to confront the dangers threatening it. The PLO chairman accused the Israeli Government of exacerbating the situation in Lebanon. He pointed out that the Zionist leaders have recently made false excuses to justify their intervention in Lebanon.

OCTOBER: YEMEN CONCILIATION PLANNED; CUBAN FORCE IN PDRY

NC271246Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug--The Egyptian weekly magazine OCTOBER reports today that contacts are now underway among the Arab states to discuss a proposal to form a conciliation committee between the northern and southern Yemens. This replaces the proposal to form an investigatory committee.

Quoting a responsible Arab source, the magazine says that the aim of the proposal is to achieve Arab solidarity and to prevent the Soviet Union from intervening as a party in disputes among the Arab brothers.

The magazine reveals that Soviet naval vessels arrived in the port of Aden last week and landed a Cuban force of 5,000 fully armed and equipped soldiers and officers. Quoting special reports from Aden, the magazine says that these forces have proceeded with their tanks to take up positions on the borders with the YAR.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN PDRY

ID2815462 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Summary] A delegation of the Democratic front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by front Central Committee member Adham, has arrived in the PDRY.

PALESTINIANS ACKNOWLEDGE ISRAELI CAPTURE OF GUERRILLAS

TA2908392 Paris AFP in English 0802 GMT 29 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, 29 Aug (AFP)--The Palestinian resistance movement has confirmed that Israeli coast-guards captured two Palestinian guerrillas on a boat near the Lebanese border on Saturday. In a communique, WAFA, the Palestinian news agency, said that the boat, a reconnaissance vessel, was hit by fire from two Israeli gunboats off the north coast of occupied Palestine.

ALGERIAN ENVOY BRIEFS PLO OFFICIAL ON CONTACTS IN IRAQ

JN2516492 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday received in his office in the Political Department Algerian Ambassador in Beirut Mohamed Yazid, who informed brother Abu al-Lutf of the results of his contacts with Iraqi officials, led by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Iraqi Ba'th Party National Command.

Mr Yazid, a special envoy for Algerian President Houari Boumediene, had met with brother Abu 'Ammar and brother Abu al-Lutf before departing for Baghdad.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MEMO FROM WEST BANK LEADERS

JN2817582 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday received a memo signed by all mayors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, notables, writers and leaders of trade unions, asserting their rejection and confrontation of the capitulatory conspiracy of As-Sadat. They also condemn the practices of the criminal regime in Baghdad against cadres and representatives of the Palestinian revolution.

Those who signed the memo stressed that they adhere to the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council calling for consolidating national unity. They reconfirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are.

INA: ARAB STUDENTS IN U.S. EXPEL PLO OFFICIAL FROM CONFERENCE

JN2419347Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1912 GMT 24 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Washington, 24 Aug--The Arab students in the United States have expelled Hani al-Hasan from their 27th conference currently convening. A statement issued by the executive committee of the Arab students organizations announced that it rejects Hani al-Hasan's attendance at the conference because he represents the course of capitulatory settlement at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights. Al-Hasan, the statement added, is known for his association with Arab reaction and is one of the advocates of settlement projects.

VOP NOTES GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV

JN2517457Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian revolutionaries shelled the (Qiryat 'Arba') settlement with heavy rockets early yesterday, inflicting heavy losses in life and material on the enemy. They also detonated explosive charges underneath a bus belonging to the Egged Zionist Company while it was parked in the Talpiyyot quarter in the suburbs of Jerusalem. At least five enemies were killed or wounded and the bus was completely destroyed.

Also yesterday, one of our units managed to plant a time bomb by the checkpoint set up by the enemy near the central [words indistinct] in Tel Aviv. The charge was discovered, but exploded when a Zionist explosives expert tried to dismantle it. The explosives expert was killed on the spot and a number of enemies were wounded.

Another unit of our revolutionaries managed to plant a booby-trapped time bomb underneath a car near the observation point in front of the Panorama Hotel on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Although the charge was discovered, the enemy explosives experts were unable to dismantle it. The charge exploded under the car, destroying it and breaking most of the windowpanes of the hotel and the buildings in the vicinity.

This was stated by the Palestinian military spokesman in four military communiques issued today.

UAE TO ATTEND ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING 12 SEP

NC2818357Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1814 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug--The UAE has decided to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council, which will be held in Cairo on 12 September. This was stated by Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, who added that the UAE supports the convening of the council at the foreign ministers level.

The UAE Foreign Ministry had received an invitation from the Arab League Secretariat General to attend the 70th session of the league council in Cairo. It also received a copy of the council's agenda.

KUWAIT

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES KUWAITIS IN USSR FOR TRAINING

NC2813152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 28 August--Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim has denied Arab press reports that Kuwaiti military personnel have been sent to the Soviet Union to receive training in Soviet weapons which Kuwait has contracted to buy from the Soviet Union.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, the Kuwaiti defense minister affirmed that these reports are fabricated and groundless.

QATAR

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DOHA, MAKES STATEMENT

NC2814532 Doha QNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 28 August--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a brief visit to Qatar, during which he will deliver a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Qatari ruler Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Al-Asnaj was received at the airport by Public Works Minister Khalid al-'Atiyah; the chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry, Ahmad al-Mulla; and the YAR charge d'affaires in Qatar, Yahya al-Yadumi.

Al-Asnaj told the QNA representative that the message for Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani deals with the Arab situation in general and the situation in the gulf area in particular. It is based on the eagerness of the states in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf to coordinate and cooperate in all fields.

Regarding the activities of the Arab Solidarity Committee and the Camp David summit conference, Al-Asnaj said: We must always face all possibilities in a united manner. A return to Arab solidarity is absolutely necessary so that the Arab position will be stronger, whether through the Camp David summit conference or without it.

He said: We believe that the United States must assume its international responsibilities or it will lose the international community's confidence in it as a state seeking peace and defending justice for people everywhere. The issue of the Palestinian Arab people and the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories are in the forefront of the causes of national struggle and freedom.

UAE

KUWAITI PETROLEUM MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OIL TALKS

NC2820037 Doha QNA in Arabic 1937 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 August--Kuwaiti Minister of Petroleum Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on a 1-day visit as part of his current tour of a number of OPEC member states. Soon after his arrival, the Kuwaiti minister met with UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah. They discussed oil subjects of interest to OPEC member states, particularly the effect of the drop in the value of the dollar on oil royalties.

The Kuwaiti minister will leave Abu Dhabi Tuesday for Doha.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT

JN271051Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 August--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Abu Dhabi at noon today on a 1-day visit to the UAE as part of his tour of the area. Al-Asnaj stated that he carries a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from YAR President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with relations between the two countries.

Talks With Foreign Minister

JN271052Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah at noon today held talks with YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. Rashid 'Abdallah stated that the talks dealt with relations between the two countries, the current Arab situation, and the efforts to date to restore Arab solidarity.

Comments on 'Arafat's Mediation

JN281556Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1340 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 August--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj made a statement to one of the dailies published here today commenting on the current mediation between his country and the PDRY which is being carried out by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj said that his country's position, as has been announced, is that there is no need for mediation between the YAR and the government in Aden. Differences exist because Aden offers shelter to saboteurs and terrorists. Furthermore, Aden is exporting troubles and difficulties to the countries in the area, affecting their security and safety. He added that the minute Aden closes all sabotage camps and delivers all culprits who have been sentenced--and only then--will the differences be settled.

In his statement to the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD, the YAR foreign minister asserted that North Yemen opposes all types of foreign presence in the area, especially Soviet presence. He added that his country insists that the Red Sea be kept out of international problems.

Speaking about the Camp David summit, the YAR foreign minister said his country believes that Egypt is still committed to the decisions of the Rabat and Algiers summits. He added that during this critical phase in the Arab cause, the least we can do is to unite Arab ranks instead of escalating our differences.

'Abdallah al-Asnaj stressed that an Arab meeting on the highest level will provide the opportunity to diminish disagreements in Arab views through the wisdom of Arab leaders. He said he believes the United States will carry out its responsibility toward establishing a just peace in the Middle East.

Leaves for Doha

JN2810237 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1010 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 August--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj left Abu Dhabi for Doha at noon today following a 1-day visit to the UAE as part of his tour of the area.

While in Abu Dhabi, the YAR foreign minister conveyed a message to the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, from the YAR president, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, dealing with relations between the two countries.

UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi this morning met with the Yemeni minister to complete the talks they had begun yesterday. The talks concern bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and the efforts to date to restore Arab solidarity.

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR DELIVERS SHAH'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

JN2520117 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] (Al-Khaznah), 25 August--His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a verbal message from Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi concerning bilateral relations. The message was conveyed to his highness by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Ebrahim Teymuri when he met with the president this evening.

OIL MINISTER MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR, OTHERS

JN2809087 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0820 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 August--UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah met here last night with U.S. Ambassador to the UAE Francois Dickman. They discussed bilateral relations concerning the oil and energy issues.

The petroleum minister also met with a representative of the Japanese (Jozfo) Company in Abu Dhabi and discussed with him a number of outstanding issues.

The minister of petroleum and natural resources also met with PLO representative to the UAE Ribhi 'Awad.

KAMIL COMPLETES REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

NC281530Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and his Foreign Ministry advisers have completed their comprehensive study of the political documents related to the Middle East problem. These documents have been prepared by the Foreign Ministry within the framework of Egypt's principled and strategic position, which is based on finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East crisis, particularly the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the Palestinian issue, on the grounds that it is at the center of the Middle East problem; and Egypt's rejection of any separate settlement with Israel.

Kamil and his high-ranking Foreign Ministry advisers have begun studying and discussing the statements recently made by the Israeli officials, particularly the statement which Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin made yesterday about the Camp David conference.

The Egyptian delegation which President Anwar as-Sadat will head during the Camp David meeting will include Presidential Bureau Director Hasan Kamil, Deputy Prime Minister in the President's Office Hasan at-Tuhami, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, and 10 assistants, including Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Dr Ashraf Ghurbal and Ambassadors Nabil al-'Arabi, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf az-Zaydi and Ahmad Mahir, and Foreign Ministry First Secretary Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt.

Position Outlined

NC280730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Aug--Cairo newspapers today report that the working group at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has completed preparing the outlines of the Egyptian position at the forthcoming Camp David summit talks. This position is summed up in three points: Complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and security guarantees for all the states of the area.

INA: PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST GROUPING OPPOSES CAMP DAVID TALKS

JN281539Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug--The Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping has announced its opposition to the tripartite meeting at Camp David which will be attended by Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat, Zionist enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

In a statement issued today, the party said: "Direct contacts under U.S. auspices will only sow illusions and will reap nothing but further Zionist intransigence." In an obvious reference to As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem in November, the party said that direct contacts and negotiations with the Zionist enemy have all ended in a deadlock, although they have been going on now for 10 months.

The statement said that the United States is urging the Zionist entity and As-Sadat's regime to show more flexibility, while in practice it is supporting the Zionist position with further military and economic aid. The Camp David meeting will only result in further blackmail at the expense of Egypt, the statement added.

'SENIOR SOURCE' DISCUSSES FORMATION OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LD2515Q2Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Aug 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The AL-AKHBAR political correspondent writes: I have asked a senior source of the National Democratic Party the following question: Why did the party open its doors to all the National Assembly deputies who are members of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and why did the party declare its immediate acceptance of their membership and even decide to allow them to participate in the meetings of the constituent committee? Would it not have been more appropriate to wait for such acceptance until after the party established its broad bases and organizational structure and then consider each application separately so that it would not become a matter of turning the new party into just another version of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt?

The senior source of the National Democratic Party replied: The doors of the National Democratic Party are open to every Egyptian who wishes to join it. The new party is the new formula for democratic practice on a sound basis. If the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt had suffered from a political vacuum it was not the fault of the party's assembly deputies. It was the fault of the political activity system in the party; it was the fault of the party structure itself. Supposedly the party leadership and its various organizations should guide the party's political action with all the party members being jointly responsible for decision-making, dealing with the problems of the masses, and keeping in close touch with the people in the villages, the streets and the cities. Those members--the People's Assembly deputies--have won their parliamentary seats as a result of elections which were 100 percent free and honest. This has been recognized by all--the opposition and the party's supporters. Therefore, if some of them have decided to join the new party and others did not, this is something natural and nobody can interfere in it. They are the people's representatives elected in free and honest elections. Therefore, nobody can question the validity of their representation and it is neither conceivable nor reasonable for the new party to deny membership to the People's Assembly deputies.

Not only did the majority of the Arab Socialist Party members join the new party, a large number of public figures who are not members of the People's Assembly also joined. They were not members of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and were not previously involved in politics. They applied to join the National Democratic Party. Shall we, therefore, open party membership to a certain group of people and deny it to others? Why? The touchstone for a party member's success or lack of success is the new democratic practice.

The senior source added: The organizational structure of the National Democratic Party is based on freely elected committees in all the provinces. There is an opportunity for everybody on all levels to be elected to these committees in a democratic manner. No one disagrees about this, as the masses have the final say in this matter.

Once the National Democratic Party completes forming its organizations and committees on the various levels, there will be a democratic system accountable for every party member. The disciplinary committee in the new party will be concerned with watching the behavior and conduct of the party members, as well as their political activities among the masses. The party declared that a member should set a good example. Therefore, if any party member misbehaves, the disciplinary committee will bring him to account. This is the sound way to insure a sound practice.

No one can bring to account the candidate members before they become members and before the new party practices come into force.

Therefore, if the National Democratic Party was basically established to fill a political vacuum, to establish a democratic party practice based on a sound democracy, and to fully express the feelings, aspirations, and sufferings of the masses, then its primary responsibility after its establishment is completed is to be the vigilant guardian of sound democratic practice and of the honesty of all its members.

The senior source added: The selection of the party's provisional secretariat from among people of good reputation and known for their commitment to ethical and national principles was the first step toward making the party machinery reflect the party's own image. This machinery has been entrusted with the task of party organization until such organization is completed. The provisional secretariat has thoroughly discussed all aspects of party organization so that the formation of the party will be democratic and will enable all the party committees to participate positively in the party's responsibilities, a participation reflecting the views of the broad masses.

Those who apply for membership in the National Democratic Party from the various factions of the people are associate members. The procedure of turning associate membership into active membership will be decided upon later.

Concluding, the senior source said: True democracy is based on respect for state institutions. Insulting the parliamentary majority in the People's Assembly is an insult to the state institutions, which have been established on the basis of free and honest elections which Egyptian parliamentary life had not experienced since 1924, that is, since the Egyptian constitution came into being. This does not mean that a People's Assembly member should be immune to any specific press criticism. On its part the People's Assembly has a commitment to the press as a public institution representing the fourth power in the constitutional amendment. A journalist is not above criticism nor is he immune to having action taken against him However, insulting the press as a popular power is something that democracy based on the state of institutions rejects. The press is a power that has a national message. A journalist is a citizen enjoying full rights, but he also has the duties and obligations of sound journalistic practices. Freedom of opinion does not mean freedom to insult the People's Assembly.

OPPOSITION PARTY PAPER AL-AHRAR FAILS TO APPEAR

NC281932Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug--The newspaper AL-AHRAR, organ of the Egyptian opposition rightwing party, did not appear today. The management of the AKHBAR AL-YAWM printing establishment, which prints AL-AHRAR, declined to print today's edition because the paper failed to pay its dues and arrears amounting to 12,000 pounds. The management has asked that the amount be settled before printing the paper.

BRIEFS

U.S. HOUSING AID--Housing Minister Ahmad Tal'at and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts today signed a contract for the financing of economic housing projects. The U.S. Government has offered Egypt a grant of $80 million to finance economic housing projects and develop residential areas. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC]

SUSPECTED IRANIAN ARSONIST APPREHENDED IN IRAQ

JN2816577 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug--A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has told INA that the competent border authorities have apprehended Iranian citizen Hashem 'Abdorreza Ashur, who on 25 August infiltrated the area of (Ash-Shahlah), 15 kms east of Basra in southern Iraq.

Following a preliminary interrogation, the infiltrator admitted that he had a hand in the recent explosion in the cinema in Abadan which took the lives of several hundred Iranian citizens. He also admitted that he was involved in several other explosions in Iran.

The source added that the Iranian infiltrator did not ask for political asylum in Iraq. In view of this, the competent Iraqi authorities concluded that they should turn him over to the Iranian authorities, who have been informed.

INA: U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT TRANSFERRED TO MOROCCO

JN2809027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 Aug--The newspaper AS-SAFIR published here today reports that the U.S. State Department has officially notified the Lebanese Foreign Ministry of its decision to transfer U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker to Morocco. The paper adds that most of Parker's aides will also be transferred, including U.S. Charge d'Affaires George Lane, Embassy First Secretary Paul Molineaux and Military Attache Lt Col Edward Badolato. The paper explains that Parker's transfer comes 1 and 1/2 years before his term expires.

The paper discloses that the reasons for the transfer are that Parker failed to complete the task entrusted to him and that the reports he sent to the State Department were not in line with the plan he was supposed to implement.

INA REPORTS ON ARREST OF PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS IN S. LEBANON

JN2711487 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug--The faltering reactionary Palestinian command has arrested a number of the fighters of the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon. The Palestinian news agency WAFA reports that these detainees were added to other groups of fighters who are still in the jails of the reactionary commands. This detention of fighters comes at a time when the Palestinian revolution is in need of every fighter to confront the plots being hatched. The agency says that these acts go against the unanimous resolution of the democratic revolutionary nationalist forces in the Palestinian arena to avoid internecine fighting.

Referring to recent statements by certain Palestinian commands about the UNIFIL forces' supervision of the Zionist withdrawal at a time when these forces are provoking the revolution forces and ignoring the Zionist-rightist alliance, WAFA asserts that the reactionary commands favor collusion with the UNIFIL stand, cover it up, and then level accusations at the revolutionary forces in order to clash with them.

WAFA calls for closing the ranks of the revolutionary bases to strengthen and safeguard their existence and to thwart the attempts of those who incite internecine fighting. Our rifles must be used to fight our enemies, it notes, not to guard detainees.

ENVOY SIGNS FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY

JN251215Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, minister of planning and envoy to RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn to Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, returned to Baghdad at noon today.

In a statement upon arrival, Husayn said that he had conveyed a message to the Turkish prime minister from Saddam Husayn dealing with relations between the two neighborly countries and with consolidating the ties of bilateral cooperation in various areas.

The Iraqi envoy this morning signed a financial and economic agreement between the two countries. The agreement was signed for Turkey by Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hikmet Cetin. During the signing ceremony, which was attended by the members of the Iraqi and Turkish sides, 'Adnan Husayn expressed his pleasure at the outcome of the talks, including important agreements which will strengthen the spirit of the joint cooperation and friendship between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples. He said: We have reached these results thanks to the positive spirit expressed by the Turkish side. He asserted that this agreement will constitute a beginning for additional economic agreements and political cooperation.

In reply, Cetin said that Iraqi-Turkish relations have been promoted by 'Adnan Husayn's visit. He pointed out that problems have been solved and that significant and big steps have been taken to boost the relations between the two countries. He added that the Iraqi-Turkish relations are now entering a new stage which will be characterized by intensive activities in all areas between the two countries. The Turkish minister of state expressed his hope that the two sides will exert strenuous efforts to achieve joint cooperation.

GDR STATE SECRETARY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN261705Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug--Manfred Schubert, state secretary of the Ministry for Construction of Machine Tools and Processing Machinery in the GDR, and chairman of the industry and construction subcommittee of the Iraqi-GDR committee, arrived here today on an official 4-day visit to Iraq.

The GDR official will hold contacts with a number of officials in the industrial and construction sectors to decide on the topics to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the industry and construction subcommittee, scheduled to be held in Berlin in September.

Discussions Held

JN281931Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug--Muhammad 'Ayish, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of industry and minerals, met here this evening with Manfred Schubert, state secretary of the Ministry of Construction of Machine Tools and Processing Machinery in the GDR and chairman of the industry and construction subcommittee of the Iraqi-GDR Joint committee.

During the meeting, 'Ayish called for formulating clear and programmed guidelines for cooperation and coordination between the two countries in various fields in order to insure the success of this cooperation.

Mr Schubert reviewed cooperation between the two friendly countries in the industrial and economic fields, and possibilities for the GDR to contribute to implementing several industrial projects in Iraq. The topics which will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Iraqi-GDR committee to be held in Berlin in September were also reviewed.

FINANCE MINISTER MEETS WITH CHADIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY

JN261238Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug--Finance Minister Fawzi 'Abdallah met today with Ahmed Kerim Togoi, Chadian minister of economy, planning and transport, who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting they discussed economic and financial relations and banking affairs between the two countries.

On Wednesday, Iraq and Chad signed a protocol on joint cooperation to develop economic relations and increase trade volume.

Iraq Grants Loan to Chad

JN280835Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug--Ahmed Kerim Togoi, Chadian minister of economy and planning, has stated that he has signed an agreement with Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, under which Iraq will give a $12 million loan to Chad.

In a press statement here today, the Chadian minister said that $6 million of the loan will be given in the form of Iraqi goods, including pharmaceutical and agricultural products.

He added that he sensed that Iraqi officials are eager to develop economic and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Chadian minister expressed his country's support for the Arab people's just struggle. He said the Arab nation has every right to regain its territories occupied by the Zionist entity. The Palestinian people are also entitled to regain their pan-Arab rights, he added.

Speaking about the situation in Chad, he said that his government is eager to achieve national unity of all the people in the country. He pointed out that a new Chadian government will be formed soon and that national reconciliation will be one of its goals.

The Chadian minister has been in Iraq since last week.

Chadian Minister Leaves

JN280925Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Aug--Ahmed Kerim Togoi, Chadian minister of economy and planning, left Baghdad today at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

MAURITANIAN ENVOY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD WITH MESSAGE FOR AL-BAKR

JN270821Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug--Lt Col Ahmed Ould Abdallah, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery in Mauritania and envoy of the Mauritanian president, arrived in Baghdad early today on a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement upon arrival, the Mauritanian envoy said that he carries a message from the Mauritanian president to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr dealing with the fraternal relations between the two countries. He was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, minister of public works and housing, and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN271914Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug--Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Saddam Husayn today received a letter addressed to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Mauritanian President Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck. The letter deals with the fraternal relations between the two countries. The letter was delivered to Mr Saddam Husayn today in the National Council building in Baghdad when he received Mauritanian presidential envoy to President al-Bakr Lt Col Ahmed Ould Abdallah, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery in Mauritania.

Bilateral Relations Discussed

JN281134Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of public works and housing, met here today with Ahmed Ould Abdallah, member of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Recovery. They discussed questions of joint interest and means of strengthening relations between the two fraternal countries. Agreement was reached that a Mauritanian delegation will visit Iraq to complete the talks on strengthening economic and educational relations and implementing the agreements concluded between the two countries.

Envoy Leaves Baghdad

JN290745Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 29 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug--Lt Col Ahmed Ould Abdallah, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery in the Republic of Mauritania and special envoy of Mauritanian President Col Moustapha Ould Saleck to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. During his visit, Abdallah delivered to Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn a letter from President Saleck addressed to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. The letter deals with the strong relations between the two fraternal countries. The Mauritanian envoy said that his government is paying special attention to strengthening its ties with fraternal Iraq and that his visit was very successful. He added that there was complete understanding on questions discussed with all the Iraqi officials he met.

Abdallah was seen off at the airport by Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Public Works and Housing Taha Yasin Ramadan, several Iraqi officials, and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

KING HUSAYN SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER

JN281715Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a message to U.S. President Jimmy Carter in which he explains Jordan's stand on the efforts being exerted to achieve lasting peace in the area and Jordan's viewpoint on the tripartite meeting at Camp David. The message includes an affirmation of the principles and means which gurantee just peace in the area.

His majesty received a message from President Carter a few days ago on the U.S. Government's stand during the Camp David meeting and the U.S. efforts being exerted to achieve a peaceful settlement in the area.

KING'S ENVOY RETURNS FROM DELIVERING MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

JN282113Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, returned to Amman from Latakia this evening after a short visit to Syria during which he met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and conveyed to him a letter from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with developments in the region and joint Arab issues.

A Syrian official source said that at the meeting they reviewed the situation in the region and the plots facing the area. The source said Sharaf explained Jordan's stand on these issues.

AD-DUSTUR: CAMP DAVID TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL

JN280758Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Aug 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "The Test of Strength in Camp David"]

[Excerpts] Egypt is going to the Camp David conference with a detailed plan for a comprehensive peace, offering several options for a solution without seemingly relinquishing the two principles of complete Israeli withdrawal and of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Zionist circles in the United States have begun to unleash an information campaign suggesting that the Arab oil-producing states are threatening the United States with stopping the flow of oil if the Camp David summit fails. The purpose of this campaign is to prevent President Carter from putting any pressure on Israel for fear that he might be accused before the American public of abandoning Israel because of Arab economic sanctions.

Anyone who reads the American newspapers notices that they are almost unanimous in the belief that the United States cannot demand anything from President as-Sadat since he has offered everything he can and that the dialog at Camp David will actually be a dialog between the United States and Israel.

We heard President Carter say a few days ago that his country will not be content to play the role of "postman" between the Arab and Israeli sides and that it will submit ideas to bring the views of the two sides closer, since it has a strategic interest in the success of the peace endeavors and will be a certain loser if they fail. Therefore, we believe that the Camp David conference will be the last chapter in the "test of strength" between the United States and Israel.

We believe that the United States realizes that its victory or defeat in this test will have a great impact on many things in the Middle East. Carter's defeat by Begin would mean an absolute despair of the United States' ability to break out of the grip of the Israeli octopus now and in the future. On the other hand, U.S. steadfastness and success in the test would mean the destruction of Israeli arrogance and the achievement of an honorable peace in the area. It would also mean that the United States, as a major power, had regained the role it played during the presidencies of Wilson and Eisenhower--the role of a state which places the rights of peoples to freedom and indeperdence above any other consideration.

AD-DUSTUR ON SIGNIFICIANCE OF CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN290813Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Aug 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "The Arabs and the War of Words at Camp David"]

[Text] With the date for the tripartite summit in Camp David drawing near, the anticipated dialog which will take place there, the ideas which will be discussed in the presidential retreat in Maryland, and the possible results are attracting the attention of millions of people, not just in the United States but throughout the world.

Thus, the U.S. presidential retreat will serve as an international forum for the most significant, highest-level political dialog in the history of our cause. This fact prompted the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, to state that the Camp David meeting will be useful if nothing else were achieved because it will expose Israel and its intentions before the entire world. The pro-Zionist propagandists in the U.S. Congress have also recognized this fact and in anticipation of the meeting are preparing to acquit Israel before the world of any responsibility in case the conference fails.

The Camp David summit is not supposed to be the scene of a propaganda campaign between the Arabs and Israel in the presence of President Carter. Its goal is to seek, through the help of President Carter and with his full participation in the dialog, a rapprochement leading to a comprehensive and just solution upon which genuine peace can be established in the area.

Nevertheless, it is inevitable that a historic war of words will be waged at Camp David whether the conference succeeds or fails. The outcome of this war of words will not be the only factor deciding the future of our cause, but it will be an essential factor in supporting our cause in the next phases if the Arabs can unite and devote all their information capabilities to waging this battle. The dialog which will take place at Camp David is a dialog which will involve the whole Arab issue, not just the Egyptian initiative or President as-Sadat personally.

One is both concerned and surprised that the Arab League and its information organs have not yet taken a single step to prepare for the war of words at Camp David, particularly when one considers that only one side of the story--the side presented by the Zionist propaganda media--has been heard in the United States for many years.

Therefore, the Arab League and the member states must make every effort to win the anticipated war of words at Camp David, regardless of the positions of certain Arab sides on the Egyptian initiative itself, because any gain for the Arabs in the information war will be a gain for the Arab issue itself in the long run and not for the Egyptian initiative.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS COMMENTS ON TALKS IN SYRIA

NC290707Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus returned last night from a visit to Latakia where he met with President Hafiz al-Asad and discussed with him subjects which concern Lebanon in particular and Lebanon and Syria in general.

Minister Butrus said that his talks covered all matters. He added: Our views were identical to a large extent on the subjects discussed.

He said that he delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Ilyas Sarkis and that they discussed all matters connected with the message.

He added: What is important in such talks is that the views on all subjects under discussion should be identical. Minister Butrus said: I have sensed, as I had imagined, that President al-Asad does not wish evil on any group regarding our current situation in Lebanon and that he sincerely wishes that all would rally around legitimacy which he keenly supports with every means.

Minister Butrus said that their talks also dealt with the major points connected with the security situation in Beirut. Butrus expressed the hope that these talks will have a bearing on the actions of the executive organs after they receive the necessary instructions.

The foreign minister indicated that the subject of renewing the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces concerns the Lebanese president in accordance with the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summit resolutions.

Regarding the topics to be raised at the meetings of the Arab League's Council, there is coordination between Syria and Lebanon. Syria itself will not be represented at the forthcoming meetings of the Arab League in Cairo.

Finally, Minister Butrus said: The Lebanese state will adopt some stands and steps in the near future regarding the situation in the south in coordination with Syria and the United Nations.

BEIRUT RADIO QUOTES AL-ASAD ON TALKS WITH BUTRUS

NC282028Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has said in Latakia that he and the Lebanese foreign minister hold identical views on the subjects they discussed, particularly the security situation in Lebanon.

President al-Asad added that Syria supports the legitimate Lebanese authority and agrees with whatever the authority considers appropriate. He said that Syria harbors no grudge against anyone in Lebanon, but wishes the best to everyone.

President al-Asad said he hopes that everyone will work for the interest of Lebanon and that there should be no link between what is happening in Lebanon and Camp David.

He concluded by saying: Syria will resist Israeli aggression and will never attempt to evade carrying out its responsibility.

LEBANESE, UN OFFICIALS MEET, DISCUSS SOUTH LEBANON

NC281802Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The developments of the crisis in the south and the results of UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart's visits to Beirut and Tel Aviv were discussed today at a meeting at the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi attended by Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri and Chief Coordinator of the UN Forces in the Middle East General Siilasvuo.

The meeting was attended on the Lebanese side by Chief of the General Staff Munir Tarabay, Maj Johnny 'Abdu and permanent Lebanese UN Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni. Attending on the UN side were Dr Kurt Waldheim's personal representative in Lebanon, (John Sanders), and the deputy commander of the UN forces in the south, Brigadier General Cuq.

Informed sources believe that the chief coordinator of the UN forces in the Middle East had brought certain proposals, especially after the statements made by an Israeli military spokesman yesterday on Israeli endeavors to pave the way for the emergency forces in the south to implement UN Resolution 425.

According to an official report issued by the Fifth Branch in the Defense Ministry, the purpose of the meeting was to follow up the current efforts concerning the situation in the south, particularly the situation of the military unit there. The report adds that a calm atmosphere prevailed at the meeting even though no definite results were reached. The meeting is part of the efforts that have been continuously exerted for some time now regarding the issues in Lebanon.

SPEAKER REPORTS RESULTS OF PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

NC281720Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] At noon today Speaker Kamil al-As'ad presided over a meeting of the parliamentary national grouping. After the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad made a statement in which he said: We reviewed all the aspects of the general situation. In view of the importance of the subject--on the local as well as on the international levels--the participants consider it necessary to call for the convocation of a special session of the Security Council in order to discuss this subject and adopt decisions that will put Resolutions 425 and 426 into effect. The reason for this is that, in our view, these resolutions must be implemented now if their aims are to be achieved. If they continue to be implemented as they have been up to now, this will imply the perpetuation of a fait accompli in the south. This, in the long run, will not be a solution of the problem but will look like an international coverup for the usurpation of land and the loss of rights in the south.

Later, asked about information concerning the position of the army force which is being contained in Kawkaba, Speaker al-As'ad replied: We saw fit to make a move. We cannot remain stationary forever without making a move. The situation today remains as it was, and the force is still in its position in Kawkaba. I would like to note that among the views and proposals which were exchanged in the meeting--from the point of view of the existence of the state, the nation and the army's honor--a suggestion was made for a breakthrough: that is, that the unit should advance.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL TO MEET SARKIS TOMORROW

NC2811155Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the Phalangist Emergency Council at Phalangist central headquarters this morning. The security situation, particularly in Al-Batrun district, was reviewed in detail. The current consultations and political and diplomatic activities concerning the Lebanese issue were also reviewed.

The Phalangist leader will visit the Presidential Palace tomorrow to meet with President Sarkis. He is expected to hold frank discussions with the president in light of the events and developments and the discussions the foreign and defense minister is having with the Syrian officials in Latakia today.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM PARIS

NC2717137 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut this evening, arriving at Beirut International Airport. On arrival, he presided over a meeting of the Unified Lebanese Forces Command, during which he acquainted himself with the situation in the north and the recent developments.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil left Beirut last Friday for Paris to attend a family gathering.

Meets With Sham'un

NC2811155Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un met with Abbot Sharbil Qassis this morning. He also met with Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the Unified Lebanese Forces, with whom he reviewed the current security situation in the various districts and areas.

Denounces Syrian Role

NC2817287 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] After chairing a meeting of the Unified Lebanese Forces Command this evening, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil stated that the current situation greatly resembles the situation that prevailed at the beginning of the 1975 war, when military events were accelerating in a manner that made it impossible for political moves to contain the Lebanese-Palestinian conflict and when the Palestinian organizations imposed a war on us which we were compelled to wage with memorable valor in defense of our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil added: Now we see that the Syrian forces, which are masquerading behind legitimacy, are escalating the military battles in order to undermine the political negotiations that are taking place to check the deterioration of Lebanese-Syrian relations. Therefore, we are now convinced that Syria wants to drag us into a war in order to achieve ambitions and aims which the Syrian officials are avowing [as heard] publicly.

The commander of the Unified Lebanese Forces added: Therefore, we must confront the developments with the sacrifices they deserve and the efforts they require. We have no choice other than to stand fast in order to preserve our dignity and independence and our free existence in this area.

Shaykh Bashir pointed out that Syria is exploiting the circumstances in which the Camp David summit conference is convening in order to slice off what it believes to be its portion of Lebanese territory. It must be understood, however, that Lebanon is not made up of portions but is a complete entity for all its people.

INA: FRANJIYAH, KARAMI, JUNBLATT TO MEET

JN2817352 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 August--A tripartite meeting among former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, will be held in Ihdin in northern Lebanon tomorrow.

Following a visit to Ihdin today, Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, announced that the meeting falls within the context of talk about the formation of a broad front to confront partition and fight against cooperation with the Zionist enemy.

WORK AT BEIRUT PORT RETURNING TO NORMAL

NC2817382 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss dealt with a number of economic and supply issues today, particularly work at the Beirut and Sidon ports. In dealing with these issues, he chaired a meeting of senior Economy Ministry officials. After the meeting, Chairman of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Adnan al-Qassar stated that work in Beirut Port has returned to normal without any incident. He said: We discussed with the prime minister ways to insure the safety of the ships entering the port to unload their cargo.

Prime Minister al-Huss also received the minister of industry, agriculture and oil. He then met with the deputy of Sidon, Dr Nazih al-Bizri, and reviewed the situation in the city of Sidon, particularly the port.

VOICE OF LEBANON: SYRIAN FORCES ENTER AL-ARZ AREA

NC2811302 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Some correspondents in the north reported at noon today that Syrian forces have entered the Al-Arz area. It has been reported that the town of Bsharri is being subjected to artillery shelling.

It is worth noting that in the Al-Arz area there is a military barracks and a gendarmerie post, where the Syrian forces are now located.

Three unidentified bodies have been found on the bridge of the town of Kur in the Al-Batrun area. Some sources have stated, however, that the bodies could be those of elements of the Lebanese Army.

Shell Army Barracks

JN2817422 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 August--The Lebanese Army barracks in the Al-Arz area in northern Lebanon was shelled today by the Syrian deterrent forces artillery. The shelling, which lasted about 3 hours, stopped following the intervention of former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

The Syrian deterrent forces had asked that the barracks be handed over to them. The Lebanese Army force, however, refused to comply and contacted the Lebanese Army Command in the Defense Ministry, informing it of the incident. Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri sent two officers to find out about the true situation and contacted former President Franjiyah, appealing to him to intervene to stop the shelling of the barracks.

Deterrent Forces' Communique

NC281813Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Communique issued in the evening of 28 August by Arab Deterrent Forces Command]

[Text] Today, the Arab Deterrent Forces searched some houses in the Al-Arz area. This was a followup to the operation which started last Friday in the wake of reports received by the command about extensive efforts to transfer heavy weapons to the Al-Biqa' area in order to perpetrate a state of continuous tension in that area. The deterrent forces confiscated a quantity of weapons.

During this operation, long-range weapons were fired, but did not lead to any clashes in Bsharri and Al-Arz and did not cause any casualties. This force carried out the orders of the Arab Deterrent Forces Command, ended its mission at 1800 and returned to its base on the eastern slope of the Al-Arz area. There is no truth at all to rumors concerning a conflict which occurred with military personnel from the Lebanese Army barracks in the area. On the contrary, continuous contacts were maintained between the two local commands until the operation ended.

In Al-Batrun area, the Arab Deterrent Forces ended their search for armed men in (Iksayfan) and Dirya. These armed men ambushed the Arab Deterrent Forces yesterday and wounded two of their soldiers without meeting any resistance. The Arab Deterrent Forces, therefore, calls on the inhabitants who left their villages as a result of clashes in the past 2 days to return to their homes. This call is made in spite of the fact that the deterrent forces, during the past 2 days, had prevented the inhabitants from returning to these villages out of consideration for their safety since the area was still the scene of clashes.

In the southern suburb of Beirut, the armed men in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah resumed sniper fire at the [Arab Deterrent] Forces along the axis extending from At-Tayyunah-Mar Mikha'il at 1500 today. The sniping gradually intensified to the point where some heavy shells were used. This necessitated a very limited response with approximately the same weapons because of the deterrent forces desire not to further exacerbate the situation and not to cause more victims and more damage.

SECURITY SITUATION REPORT BY VOL EARLY 29 AUGUST

NC290625Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Calm prevailed last night in the Bsharri and Al-Batrun areas following a very small withdrawal of Syrian forces in the Al-Arz area. These forces did not fire artillery rounds at Bsharri as they had done yesterday morning. These forces have justified their entry into Al-Arz area, where there is an army barracks and a gendarmerie post, by saying that they are searching for weapons.

The sound of light and intermittent weapons fire was heard in the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area last night. No casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, the military situation in the south continues to be the same: The military unit is held up in Kawkaba and its size has diminished since a large number of its elements are on vacation or being transferred.

VOICE OF LEBANON: ISRAEL GIVES NEGATIVE REPLY ON SOUTH

NC290800Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 29 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Israel has sent a negative reply to several Lebanese questions through the UN representatives in the area. On the Lebanese unit being held up in Kawkaba, Israel has stated that it does not object to the entry of the Lebanese Army into the south but it does not guarantee that it would not be attacked.

Reports from the south indicate that the UNIFIL Irish contingent has withdrawn from the Tibnin-Bint Jubyal-'Ayta az-Zutt triangle to the Al-Haddathah hills.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI SHELLING IN S. LEBANON

JN261859Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 August--The isolationist-Zionist forces shelled the area of Al-'Ayshiyah in southern Lebanon this evening. A military spokesman of the General Command of the Central Command [presumably of the joint forces] stated that since 2030 this evening, the Zionist-isolationist enemy has been shelling the area of Al-'Ayshiyah in southern Lebanon with heavy artillery. The spokesman did not give any other details.

Rightist Military Movements

JN271930Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 August--Our correspondent in southern Lebanon has reported that movements of rightist vehicles have been observed in the region of Marj 'Uyun-Al-Qulay'ah this evening. Immediately afterward, the UN interim forces took preparations to repulse any possible operations that may be carried out by the rightist forces in the eastern sector.

INA: FRENCH CITIZENS IN LEBANON BEING ADVISED TO LEAVE

JN270834Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 August--French citizens in Lebanon, according to press reports here today, have received direct requests to leave the country if they have no urgent business. The reports say that certain citizens have been leaving the country since Friday. The reports add that more people are expected to leave in the next 48 hours. French citizens contacting French sources in Beirut for advice are being encouraged to leave Lebanon.

French Embassy Denial

NC271709Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The French Embassy in Beirut has categorically denied press reports that French citizens have been asked to leave Lebanese territory if they have no business that requires them to stay.

DAMASCUS TISHRIN COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN290725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Aug 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Middle East Is Not a U.S. State," TISHRIN writes: Statements by U.S. officials on the Middle East suggest that these officials believe this area of the world is part of the U.S. sphere of influence and that the United States has been chosen by divine providence to resolve the Middle East problem.

U.S. officials, in making these statements, ignore the United Nations and its role and the sides directly concerned with the crisis in the area. These statements also ignore the Geneva conference and its cochairman, the Soviet Union. Yet the Carter administration issued a joint statement with the Soviet Union on the Middle East identifying ways to resolve the crisis in the area.

As-Sadat's regime has left the Arab fold and joined the U.S. sphere of influence. Washington decision-makers apparently believe that their total reliance on Israel--their basic support and advance base in the Middle East--and their success in dragging As-Sadat into their sphere of influence will make them masters of the situation in the area.

Camp David will intensify the feverish U.S. efforts to monopolize the affairs of the Middle East, to push through predetermined plans for the area, and to impose a situation that would achieve U.S. objectives in the area. U.S. officials are well aware that the tripartite meeting will neither achieve a real settlement nor establish a just and durable peace. They do not see these goals as objectives of the meeting, nor are they part of U.S. objectives. Therefore, they are trying to put pressure on the forces which are valiantly struggling for the sake of a just and durable peace.

These U.S. attempts, however, are not unexpected. Syria and the peace- and freedom-loving forces have made their own plans accordingly. The Middle East area rejects U.S. hegemony over the area and will resist every form of settlement aimed at cementing the Israeli occupation in the Arab territories and at ignoring the national rights of the Palestinian people.

AL-ASAD ANSWERS QUESTIONS OF LEBANESE JOURNALISTS

JN282002Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1130 today in the presidential palace in Latakia Mr Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and defense. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

At the meeting, a review was made of the situation in Lebanon from all angles, the Israeli intervention and the obstacles it presents to prevent the Lebanese State from exercising its sovereignty. His excellency the president affirmed Syria's determination to support Lebanon's unity and the need to consolidate legitimacy and entrench security and stability, guaranteeing to our fraternal people the restoration of peace and prosperity in Lebanon.

The Arab situation in the Arab area and the circumstances in the area were also reviewed.

Following the meeting, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad answered the questions of the Lebanese journalists. The first question was about the talks which were held today, particularly concerning the security situation, as all hopes are pinned on Syria.

The president replied: I am sure you will hear from Mr Butrus that the viewpoints on the topics under discussion coincided, especially pertaining to the security situation in Lebanon. We support legitimate authority in Lebanon. We agree to whatever the legitimate authority agrees to and deems suitable. Our only concern is to allow the Lebanese citizen to live in peace and security. We feel the same pain about a single drop of blood shed in Lebanon as in Syria. We do not bear grudges against anybody in Lebanon. We harbor love and amity for all. We wish that everybody in Lebanon would exert his utmost for Lebanon's interests, which are our interests.

Asked whether agreement was reached on the practical measures to be taken to complete the security march in Lebanon and make it succeed, the president said: As I have said, we agree to any plans put by the authorities there. Our forces are there to help the authority in implementing its plans.

Asked whether the renewal of the Arab deterrent forces' mandate in Lebanon was discussed, the president said: No, this was not discussed.

Asked about the situation and circumstances in Lebanon, particularly in connection with the Camp David conference, the president said: We wish there would be no connection between what is happening in Lebanon and the Camp David conference. We wish that we could all work together for Lebanon's security, without regard to conferences in Camp David or any other conference.

The president was asked: There is fear in Lebanon that the situation there might spark a war in the region. Do you have any comment about these fears?

The president asked the journalist who posed the question: Are you implying that Lebanon is an Israeli protectorate? The journalist replied: Lebanon has been transformed into a battlefield and there are fears that an Arab-Israeli war might be ignited from Lebanon because the issues are interconnected.

The president answered by saying: No. The Arab-Israeli war has never been connected with Lebanon and it will never be so. The Arab-Israeli struggle has other factors. Lebanon is part of the Arab world and the Lebanese people are part of the Arab nation, whether anybody or any quarter likes this or not. Lebanon is part of our nation otherwise we would not have exerted any efforts for Lebanon's sake. If Lebanon were not Arab, what would our relations with it be? If Lebanon were a foreign country, we would only watch the situation there. But Lebanon is an Arab country, a part of this nation and a fraternal country.

The Syrian forces are in Lebanon with the agreement of all the Arabs and with the agreement of the legitimate Lebanese authorities. Would Israel implement the plans of the legitimate Lebanese authorities? Does Israel want to put the Israeli Army at the disposal of the Lebanese authorities? Does Israel want to use its army to further the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon? Surely Israel is not seeking anything like this. Israel endeavors to commit aggressions and to expand. In any case, the Lebanese denounce and reject the Israeli statements.

The Israeli attitude does not surprise us. Israel continues its aggression and its interference in Lebanon. Israel is still occupying territories of Arab states which are members of the United Nations and is still usurping Palestinian rights.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Israel should attempt to spread its hegemony over a part of Lebanon by exploiting certain Lebanese elements who have deviated from the Lebanese nationalist line.

The citizen in Lebanon is just like the citizen in Syria, in Jordan and in every Arab state. Therefore we rushed to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon. Therefore we were pained at the torment of the Lebanese old men, of women and children and at the death of every Lebanese. If Lebanon were not part of our nation, we would not have taken our initiative. I think this is only natural.

What is being fabricated by Israel and propagated by the Israelis does not concern us. Israel has its expansionist aims in Lebanon as well as other regions. At any rate, we will have our say when the time comes. Israel wants to commit aggression. We will confront the aggression and we will not shirk our responsibilities. Israel will not find many agents in Lebanon. It will not find many agents in the Arab nation. We believe that those in Lebanon who deal with Israel are a rejected minority. They are rejected by the Lebanese people and the Arab nation. Israel will fight only for its own reasons and for expansion and not for the sake of Lebanon.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOLLOWING TALKS WITH AL-ASAD

JN281953Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus left Latakia today after a short visit, during which he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad lasting about 3 hours. The minister was seen off by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the governor of Latakia.

KUWAITI DAILY SAYS KHADDAM TO SEEK USSR MILITARY GUARANTEES

JN290921Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 29 August--Quoting well-informed sources in Damascus, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANSA' says today that the visit of Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Moscow will mainly deal with the possibility of an Israeli attack on Syrian forces in Lebanon.

The paper adds that Khaddam will carry a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev dealing with recent developments in Lebanon and the Camp David summit.

The sources pointed out that the Syrian foreign minister will assert to his Soviet counterpart, Gromyko, that Syria will resist current efforts aimed at partitioning Lebanon even if this leads to a military confrontation with Israel. The sources added that the question of Soviet guarantees to Syria will be raised during the talks, since Moscow had previously assured Damascus that it would support Syria in any confrontation with Israel and that it would not allow Israel to take on the Syrian front alone.

The sources said they are convinced that Khaddam's visit to Moscow stems from concern that an Israeli attack is possible, as stipulated in Begin's plans, and that all military, diplomatic, and political precautions should be taken to resist this attack.

MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI

JN262108Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has declared that, through the deterrent forces in Lebanon, Syria is fighting the designs of Israel against Lebanon and the Arabs and is struggling, alongside legitimate authority and all honest and sincere men in Lebanon, in order for Lebanon to achieve victory and remain united in soil and in objectives.

In an interview published today by the newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, published in Paris, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar said that Israel is using the Phalangists and the National Liberals against legitimate Lebanese authority and against Arab Syria, not out of love for these two parties, and not out of hatred for Syria and Lebanese authority alone, but out of hatred for all the Arabs--Christians and Moslems.

Iskandar added: By supporting and encouraging the Phalangists and National Liberals, Israel is pushing these two parties toward suicide. Had it been true that Israel looks with compassion on the Christian Arabs in general and the Maronites in particular, it would not have expelled the inhabitants of the two Maronite villages of Kafr Bur'um and Iqrit from their homes, and it would not have acted with savagery and racism against Bishop Capucci, and it would not have persecuted the Palestinian Christians in such a ruthless way.

Iskandar added: Racist Zionism is an enemy of the Arabs whether they are Christians or Moslems. It is an enemy of all sects in Lebanon. When Israeli planes bombarded Lebanese villages, they did not distinguish between a Christian and a Moslem. Israeli missiles fired on Lebanon did not check the identity of the Lebanese citizens to determine their sects.

Iskandar pointed out that the commands of the Phlangist and National Liberal parties have become involved and have agreed to implement a role which serves no one in Lebanon or the members of the two parties--these innocent ones who are being forced to fight against their brethren and countrymen for the interest of Israel and for objectives they did not know of when they decided to join these two parties.

Iskandar explained: This involvement by the Phlangist and National Liberal parties claims innocent victims from these two parties. They are victims because they did not have the luck to belong to either of the two families ruling these two parties.

Iskandar added: Arab Syria, whose actions are governed by concern for a single Arab Lebanon, is very pained to see any victim fall as a result of the design of the Phalangists and National Liberals--victims who are being sacrificed by the two parties, collaborating with the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs. They are our sons, brothers and kinsmen. They are the children of the early pioneers who built Lebanon and contributed greatly to Arab intellectual thought. We want them to bring up children who are capable of continuing the march of their forefathers and of being always with Lebanon against its enemies.

Iskandar continued: No one person dealing with Israel can be loyal to Lebanon or the Arab Maronites of Christian Arabs. All of these have nothing to do with this person who deals with the enemy, thereby distorting the image of the Maronite faith and Christianity.

Iskandar emphasized that proceeding from this concept, we can reach the certain fact that, through the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, Syria is fighting the designs of Israel against Lebanon and the Arabs and is struggling, alongside legitimate authority and all honest and sincere men in Lebanon, in order for Lebanon to achieve victory and remain united in soil and in objectives.

Speaking about the dispute in Lebanon, Iskandar pointed out that this dispute is between two sides. On the one side stands legitimate Lebanese authority and all the honest Lebanese, from the various sects and political affiliation, with Syria on their side with all its power and assets. On the other side stand those involved with Israel--the enemies of legitimate authority and the enemies of the unity of the Lebanese soil and the enemies of the Christian Arabs--with Israel and its ugly racist character on their side.

Iskandar said: I can confirm that the primary victims of Israel's encouragement and support for the commands of the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties are the innocent ones who, under previous circumstances, joined these two parties and thought they were working for the sake of united Lebanon and its prosperity.

Iskandar added: The commands of the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties are mercilessly sacrificing their members for selfish, personal and petty interests. We are pained at this and regret it. We will not hesitate to take any stand helping these innocent ones get rid of the terrorism of the families which have a stake in fighting against Lebanese legitimacy and in dealing with the enemies of Lebanon. These innocent ones are our brothers and sons.

Speaking about the mission of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, Iskandar said: The Arab Deterrent Forces, of which the Syrian forces form the backbone, represent the conscience of the Arab nation and noble pan-Arab beliefs.

Iskandar affirmed that the stand of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon has been a principled and constant stand throughout the Lebanese crisis and throughout the various political phases of this crisis. The deterrent forces did not clash with any faction except when this faction changed its stand.

Iskandar said that the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties do not represent the Christians in Lebanon. The Christians are pure Arabs who aid the foundation stone of contemporary Arab thought. They also served their Arab nation and contributed to reviving this nation's national heritage and spreading it on a large scale. They are still playing a leading role in the Arab liberation movement against all forms of imperialist domination and social backwardness. They gave caravans of martyrs to get rid of French colonialism and to confront Zionist expansion and terrorism.

The information minister added that the Phalangist Sham'unist collusion has disavowed the history of the Christian Arabs in Lebanon and deviated from the values and concepts of history, becoming a tool implementing Israel's machinations against the Moslem and Christian Arabs. When the Arab Deterrent Forces confronted the Phalangist-Sham'unist terror and its attempts to nullify the role of the Lebanese state and harm the sovereignty and prestige of the legitimate authority, these forces were thus supporting Lebanese legitimacy and both Christian and Moslem Arabs against those who wanted to mar the clean white Christian Arab image.

The information minister explained that a sound analysis of what is happening in Lebanon confirms an important truth; namely, that the great majority of Lebanese Christians are against the Phalangist-Sham'unist collusion and its objectives. They have announced this openly through their patriarchs, political leaders and representatives of their cultural, social and economic organizations.

Within the Arab Maronite community, the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties have been isolated. They have become a minority of little importance living on illusions fostered by foreign forces which do not want good for the Maronites or for Lebanon and the Arabs.

Replying to a question on possible Israeli expansion of the aggression against Lebanon and directly confronting the Arab Deterrent Forces, the information minister said: We have been in a continuous battle with Israel for 30 years in defense of justice against the Zionist invasion. The Syrian leadership takes into consideration all possible eventualities. It is always ready to face all eventualities.

Speaking on Syrian-Palestinian relations, the information minister said that these relations are based on strategic foundations and governed by clear principles regarding the unity of the cause, the common enemy and the necessity of facing and repulsing this enemy within a unified and concentrated front. The minister affirmed that these relations are developing further in the interests of the Arab issue.

Asked about Syria's position regarding the attempts to end the differences between Iraq and the PLO, the information minister said: The differences which have recently come to a head and surfaced are deep-rooted and are back to the Iraqi regime's hostile stand toward the PLO. He added that Iraq's stand reflects the nature of the role which it has been asked to perform in the Arab arena against the forces of Arab steadfastness, which are shouldering the burden and responsibility of the confrontation. By trying to liquidate the leaders of the PLO militarily, the Iraqi regime is merely complementing the role of the U.S. scheme aimed at bringing about the political liquidation of the PLO. The Baghdad regime's cooperation with As-Sadat's regime and its economic and military support for this regime is also obvious to all.

The differences surfaced and took this violent turn because of current developments in the Arab area, including the desire of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism, as well as their agent As-Sadat, to peddle a separate solution between As-Sadat and Israel, and to preoccupy the forces of steadfastness in Syria and the PLO with fabricated and peripheral problems.

Referring to the Camp David meeting, the minister said that this meeting is new confirmation of As-Sadat's commitment to show good intentions toward Israel against the Arab cause. He added that As-Sadat's acceptance of this meeting reveals that he is seriously willing to do anything, regardless of the harm to the Arab cause and Egypt's national dignity. He affirmed that the meeting is another chapter in the game of the unilateral solution. Furthermore, it is another step on the road of concessions which As-Sadat has pledged to make in order to reach identification with the Israeli position.

The information minister added: The Camp David meeting cannot achieve anything new, except further relinquishment by As-Sadat of Arab rights. We do not expect anything else from As-Sadat. Our experience with him has shown that he cannot respect any Arab pledge or commitment he has taken upon himself. At the same time, he will not be able to break any of his promises to Israel and the United States.

Regarding the shifting in the balance of forces in favor of the Zionist enemy in the wake of As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem, the information minister said: This upset cannot rob us of the independence of our will and the freedom of taking decisions which safeguard our national and pan-Arab interests. He added: While seeking to rectify the situation created by As-Sadat's treason to the Arab cause, Syria basically relies on intrinsic power on the national level and the power which we are seeking to bring about on the pan-Arab level. There is no question that all the forces which love freedom, progress and peace in the world support Syria in its battle against Israel's racist and expansionist nature.

On the Soviet stand regarding the military imbalance in the area, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad explained: The Soviet Union has always supported the Arab liberation movement in its struggle against Israel's racist and expansionist character. He said that Soviet-Syrian relations are good and developing, founded on firm bases of mutual trust and respect, nonintervention in domestic affairs and common determination to struggle alongside the forces of good and peace in the world against imperialism and Zionism. We appreciate the Soviet Union's support for the justice of the Arab cause and its backing for Syria's defensive capabilities against Israeli ambitions.

DAMASCUS RADIO: PLOTS AGAINST SYRIA THROUGH LEBANON FAILED

JN261624Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Anyone is mistaken who thinks that the failures of imperialism in all parts of the world, including the Middle East, make it accept the new facts or recognize the peoples' rights and victories. Imperialism, with its increasing defeats, is becoming more ferocious and aggressive. It is resorting to all sorts of methods to restore what is lost. The Arab region gives good evidence of this. In this region, during the years that have elapsed since World War II, imperialism has lost most of its positions, influence and bases. Nevertheless, it is still trying, with all the methods of old and new colonialism, to regain what it has lost.

The plotters think that heating up the situation in Lebanon will place a winning card in their hands that will cover up what may result from the Camp David meeting and will distract Syria's attention from following up the battle against the imperialist-Zionist offensive. The plotters have made several moves to turn Lebanon into a tool of pressure against Syria and the Arabs who are confronting the plot of capitulation.

Thus there have been the Sham'unist and Phalangist attempts to explode the security situation and fabricate clashes with the Syrian forces incorporated in the Arab Deterrent Forces. There have also been the suspicious visits to Israel by the leaders of the collaborators and their talks with Begin and other Israeli officials. There have also been Israel's attempts to impose trusteeship on Lebanon on the pretext of concern for Christian presence and interests in Lebanon. Finally there have been the shipments of Israeli and non-Israeli arms to the plotters in Lebanon, in addition to talk about establishing a sectarian entity under the name of the Republic of Free Lebanon which would be closely connected with Israel.

In fact, all this was expected and was no surprise. It is also expected that the attempts to exploit the Lebanese arena will escalate whenever the imperialist-Zionist plot suffers a new failure. But the calculations of the plotters in Lebanon are wrong and inaccurate, like their other calculations in the region. They failed in estimating the balance of power in the region. In a similar manner, they base their plans in Lebanon on the meager isolationist and condemned forces opposed by legitimate Lebanese authority and the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese, who adhere to the unity, sovereignty, independence, legitimacy and Arabism of Lebanon.

Despite all the aid Israel offers these colluding forces, the balance of power lies with the forces that are concerned about Lebanese national unity as well as the unity of Lebanon's people and soil and fraternal relations with Syria.

JORDANIAN ENVOY CONVEYS HUSAYN MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

JN281709Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Syrian President His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad received His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court in the presidential palace in Latakia today. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

His excellency Sharif Sharaf arrived in Latakia at 1700 today on a short visit to convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, dealing with developments in the situation in the area and joint Arab issues.

VISITING FRG MINISTER RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN251946Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Latakia--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Rainer Offergeld at 1900 this evening in the presidential palace in Latakia. The meeting was attended by Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, and the FRG ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting cooperative relations between the two countries were discussed.

The FRG minister expressed his government's and people's welcome for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's coming visit to the FRG. Dr George Huraniyah and Mr Offergeld reviewed the results of the talks they have held so far.

Lauds President's Efforts in Lebanon

JN260810Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Rainer Offergeld stated yesterday that the FRG Government fully understands Syria's role in Lebanon.

In an interview in Damascus [date not specified], the FRG minister said: We are fully aware of President al-Asad's efforts to achieve an even balance in Lebanon. We support every effort to halt the bloodshed in Lebanon and extend the legitimate authority to all of Lebanon. He pointed out that he is bearing personal greetings from FRG Chancellor Schmidt to President Hafiz al-Asad. He described Syria's role in the Middle East as vital.

On his talks in Damascus, the FRG minister said: I had extensive talks with senior Syrian officials on economic cooperation. Our cooperation has been very constructive during the last 2 years. He said: I have obtained new ideas for expanding cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of agricultural development.

Concludes Visit

JN260939Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Rainer Offergeld left Damascus this morning following a 5-day visit to Syria.

DEFENSE MINISTER LAUDS TACTICAL EXERCISE

JN271514Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 August--On instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the army and armed forces, one of our combat mechanical units carried out a tactical exercise in the presence of Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and defense minister.

While the concept and stages of the exercise were being explained, the force was marching, ready to receive battle orders according to developments of the situation. When the order was given, the forces turned into fighting units that breached the mock defense of the enemy in cooperation with other forces and under a heavy barrage from air force, air defense and field artillery. Backed by rockets, the unit was able to destroy the enemy counterattack and then route him. The unit then occupied an important line in the depth of the enemy defenses and insured connection with the friendly air strip. The unit thus accomplished its task.

At the end of the exercise, General Talas praised those who conducted the exercise and the fighters for their bravery, alertness and adaptation to difficult situations, something which showed that they have taken in and grasped the lessons and experience of the October liberation war.

General Talas then gave his directives to continue training and to preserve the high level which our armed forces have attained in combat preparedness so that these forces may remain the vanguards of the Arab nation in their sacrifices for liberation and the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights as well as for thwarting the capitulationist initiatives, which serve only imperialist and Zionist interests.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA REVIEWS ARAB MAGHREB DEVELOPMENTS

LD251728Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] As is known, M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, recently submitted a review of the latest developments in the Arab Maghreb to a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. This was followed by questions from members of the committee.

At the beginning of his review, the minister underlined the need to maintain a national consensus in facing all acts of defiance and prejudiced activities. He also recalled recent events, especially those in Mauritania, and the actions of our adversaries aimed--at the Khartoum and Belgrade meetings of OAU and nonalined foreign ministers--at inducing the two organizations to denounce Morocco and Mauritania and at internationalizing the question of the Sahara after deciding that the OAU was incapable of solving it. Algeria achieved neither of the two aims.

Regarding recent events in Mauritania, the minister stressed that they were not connected with Morocco but were Mauritania's concern alone. However, Boucetta added, they required us to follow them carefully because Mauritania is a neighboring country and the Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples are united and have a common destiny. He urged that no heed be paid to verbal speculations, peculiar deductions and rumors which are being circulated by prejudiced quarters as part of a campaign of psychological warfare to provoke public opinion.

He stressed that Morocco's attitude on the situation in North Africa and the Arab Maghreb was clear, and that it stemmed basically from the principle that we have never been an aggressor. But we cannot and we snall not acquiesce to aggression and take a passive stand toward it.

Another basic principle which motivates Morocco's policy is that it has rights which were usurped when colonialism occupied its land [words indistinct] Morocco elected, Mohamed Boucetta said, to regain its rights through internationally respected means. It would be (?difficult) to use other means to enable the people to attain their objectives.

The minister concluded by summing up Morocco's attitude. This was reflected in a recent speech made by the king--namely, that we are not prepared to give up an inch of our soil or to accept a solution which has expansionist or hegemonist dimensions, or which aims at isolating Morocco from its African extension.

M'hamed Boucetta then returned to the question of recent events in Mauritania [words indistinct] with regard to Moroccan-Mauritanian relations, referring to the presence of Moroccan troops in Mauritania to undertake a duty based on fraternity, alliance and defense, in accordance with a treaty between the two countries in this respect, and to the strengthening of economic, cultural and social relations between them. The desire for this was confirmed by the Mauritanian leaders. This is also the desire of Morocco, in spite of the sacrifices required of the Moroccan people to achieve it.

Concerning the obstruction to the march of economic development in the region due to the special situation [words indistinct], M'hamed Boucetta told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies that Morocco has never sought and will never seek war between brothers [words indistinct] but will undertake any measures which are likely to lead to the building of an Arab Maghreb on sound bases, beginning with the economic, social or any other sector.

The minister reaffirmed Morocco's readiness--as stated on every possible occasion--to end the state of tension, provided this is made on a clear basis and does not involve compromises in policy or the giving up of a single inch of territory.

MAP REVIEWS ACTIVITIES CONCERNING W. SAHARA

LD281948Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] Rabat, 28 August--Mali President Moussa Traore is expected to pay a 3-day official visit to Morocco during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hassan II on bilateral relations and the current situation in northwest Africa.

Recently the Mali foreign minister visited Nouakchott, where he was received by Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee of National Recovery. During the visit the Mali foreign minister pointed out his country's desire to work to find a settlement to the current conflict in northwest Africa through holding talks in which all parties to the dispute take part.

In recent days Bamako has also witnessed a number of contacts between the Moroccan ambassador to Mali and Mali officials. The Moroccan ambassador informed Mali officials of the truth about the tense conditions in the area as a result of Algerian ambitions in the Moroccan and Mauritanian Sahara.

In this framework, the Moroccan ambassador was received by Filifina Sissoko, member of the Mali National Liberation Military Committee. The Moroccan ambassador presented him with a copy of the speech His Majesty King Hassan II made on 20 August, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the revolution of the king and the people, which is considered to be Morocco's official stand on the tension created by the Algerian Government in the area.

While it is almost certain that the Mali Government is about to undertake a new role of mediation between the sides concerned, the Algerian Government still manipulates the POLISARIO bands whenever the Algerian intelligence service finds the atmosphere suitable. It appears that the Algerian officials are trying to destroy this expected mediation.

And in this connection, Algerian intelligence has sent a delegation of POLISARIO mercenaries to Bamako, where it is expected to be received by the Mali president before his visit to Morocco.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAMAKO

LD261324Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 78 LD

[Summary] It is reported from Bamako that a POLISARIO delegation is in Mali and is to be received by the president of Mali.

The delegation, which is led by Mohamed Ould Salek, went to Bamako 48 hours after the Mali foreign minister returned home from a visit to Mauritania.

Meets With President

LD271344Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] In Bamako, the Malian capital, the Saharan question was the topic of discussion during a meeting between President Moussa Traore and Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, who said following the meeting that the Malian president reaffirmed his country's principled position regarding the just cause of the Saharan people and their right to freedom and self-determination.

He said that the POLISARIO feels that Mali is connected with the conflict. This is because the Greater Maghreb Plan covers parts of Mali in addition to parts of Algeria and Mauritania and the entire Western Sahara.

He said that the coup which took place in Nouakchott on 10 July was a direct result of the war, and Morocco will witness the same thing if Hassan II continues with his expansionist policy.

He described the POLISARIO decision on a cease-fire with Mauritania as a historic opportunity that should be seized. He added that the restoration of peace to the Western Sahara requires respect for the Saharan people's right to live freely and enjoy sovereignty over their country like all other world peoples.

The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic information minister has left Bamako for Togo.

POLISARIO LEADER RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM DPRK, CYPRUS

LD251332Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Mohamed Abdul Aziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO Front and chairman of the Saharan Revolutionary Command Council, received in Hausa in the liberated regions on 21 August a delegation from the DPRK led by its ambassador to Algeria, who handed him a message from President Kim Il-song. The Korean delegation attended a military parade and held talks with the Saharan revolutionaries, finding in them a high morale and dogged determination to continue the struggle. The Korean delegation also visited the refugee camps and attended popular rallies organized by the Saharan popular committees.

Mohamed Abdul Aziz also received a message from the foreign minister of Cyprus expressing the support of the Cypriot people for the just issue of the Saharan people and their efforts to uphold their firm right to self-determination and independence.

BRIEFS

BENGHAZI PORT ENLARGEMENT--Tripoli, August 21, JANA--The General People's Committee has agreed to appoint an international specialized company to present its tender on the project of enlarging Benghazi port at a cost of 81,944,249 Libyan dinars. The duration of the project will be about five and a half years starting from the date of contract. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 21 Aug 78 LD]

CAMP DAVID DELEGATION AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE POSITION

TA281147Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Camp David summit might propose changes in the formulation of several articles in the autonomy plan so as to create a wider basis for reaching an understanding with Egypt with respect to reaching an arrangement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The willingness to change formulations in the autonomy plan will only find expression if and when the negotiations at Camp David warrant this flexibility on Israel's part. At the same time, the Israeli delegation will come to the United States with the prime goal of discussing the autonomy plan as the central proposal for solving the conflict between Israel and the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

The evaluation in Jerusalem is that an agreement which would solve the differences between Israel and Egypt will not be reached at Camp David. The main goal of the meeting is to insure the continuation of contacts between the two countries.

Senior sources yesterday expressed the hope that the United States will not surprise Israel in the negative sense at Camp David. Jerusalem expects Washington to maintain maximum coordination with Israel during the Camp David summit.

Hopes for Summit

TA281148Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Several elements remarked yesterday that the nonspecific formulation of the cabinet's decision [concerning the goals of the Camp David summit] ir intentional. "Any interpretation would be good, and that is the intention," it was said.

Political circles said yesterday that one should not regard the Camp David summit as the be all and end all, but that one must also not fear that the summit will end in nothing, because the U.S. President's prestige depends on it. The evaluation is that at Camp David it will be decided to continue the contacts and it looks like the Israeli efforts--just as the efforts of the other parties--will center on consolidating a decision on the continuation of the negotiations, the framework in which they will continue, the location, etc.

The nature of the deliberations for the Camp David summit is, as one political source defined it yesterday, not of a shift but rather more of variations on a theme. The consultations focus on various interpretations of formulations--to a large degree based on the report submitted by the interoffice report--and not on new content, the cabinet session in which the political issue was discussed was held yesterday in the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

'AMIT WILL NOT JOIN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

TA290738Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Supporters of Transport Minister Me'ir 'Amit and former members of the Democratic Movement for Change have decided not to join the Democratic Movement headed by Prof Yiga'el Yadin.

'Amit says that although the group shares the concepts of the democratic movement, he does not believe that Yadin's organization in its present form will succeed in implementing these ideas.

The final decision on their future is yet to be taken by the 'Amit group. Possible alternatives are to join Shinui, or to become an expanded Knesset faction.

DAVAR COMMENTS ON NEW LIKUD POLITICAL THINKING

TA2519047 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Aug 78 p 16 TA

[Haggay Eshed commentary]

[Text] The most important political declaration made last week was heard at a family occasion, voiced by a man who does not play any political role. It was a declaration by a former member of the EZEL command and commander of the ship "Altalena," Eliyahu Lankin, made on the occasion of Menahem Begin's 65th birthday party. If you decide to make concessions--we will obey, Lankin told his commander, both in the past and now. This was a personal oath of obedience to the prime minister taken by the "old guard"--to a prime minister who is now taking roads that are new and moreover run contrary to those he and his followers were accustomed to in the EZEL.

This was also a retort to the threat made by Gush Emunim, that their patience was coming to an end and that the day was not far off when they would demonstrate against the Begin government because of its shortcomings in the settlement sphere. This was a warning by the EZEL faithful to the Land of Israel people, whose origins are in the Labor Party. None of them belong to EZEL's "fighting family" and they are not bound by personal loyalty to Begin, they are loyal to his path--so long as they also see it as their own. Manifestations of loyalty to Begin came from other directions as well this week--the Liberals on the one hand and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on the other--in order to enable Begin to adopt a more moderate and flexible policy in the Camp David talks and after. This week at the Likud executive meeting the Liberals unleashed a hail of criticism of settlement activities to date of Gush Emunim. These Knesset members--Avraham Sharir, Sarah Doron, Moshe Meron and Pessah Grupper--stated, each in his own way, that settlement activities must be frozen until after the Camp David meeting and must also undergo thorough changes after it: they must be transferred into the hands of the government, as Sharir proposed, or Gush Emunim should be directed to populate the Galilee with Jews, as suggested by Meron. Grupper threatened the Gush Emunim people that he would use bulldozers against them if they demonstrated against the government.

The Herut and La'am representatives on the Likud executive--Hayyim Kaufman and Yig'al Kohen--were also more reserved and less enthusiastic regarding further settlement by Gush Emunim. Their remarks had a more restrained and selective note than in the past. However, all the speakers clothed their statements in positive and constructive terms with regard to the future of the settlements and the need for the government to consolidate and create an economic infrastructure. On the face of it the situation is merely one of disappointment with the Gush Emunim's achievements--not with the actual role of the settlements. This criticism was ostensibly leveled mainly at the timing of the settlements and at the declarations and decisions on them. The freezing of military strongholds in the Jordan Valley is, as it were, only being done for psychological reasons, as the prime minister said. But the sum of the expressions voiced on the settlement issue is more than just an accumulation of marginal reservations as to timing and psychological usefulness. This is an opening for changing stands and policies on this issue, which will be one of the important bones of contention at the Camp David meeting.

In last Saturday's "Bama" [forum for political clarifications and social discussions] gathering Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan also joined all those who are granting Menahem Begin a free hand to exercise more moderation and flexibility than in the past. Dayan extolled Menahem Begin's ability to learn something new, not only remembering what is old. As an example he cited Begin's readiness to now discuss an agreement that would mean less than a peace treaty. This praise by Dayan of Begin's moderation was directed at his supporters in La'am and at various hawkish circles within and outside the Likud who to this day have not managed to digest Begin's earlier concessions in the Sinai and in the autonomy plan. Moshe Dayan is now trying to persuade his supporters of the need for further concessions. He lauded the concessions contained in the autonomy plan, and even added to them by reading additional concessions into them. In this way Dayan said that the elected autonomy administration could also discuss political subjects, not only administrative ones. If the elected administration discusses political issues it will presumably also make decisions and even conduct contacts with Arab factors, and not only Arab factors, on these matters. From there it is only a short way to full independence--or almost full--of a separate "Palestinian entity" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the course of voicing interpretations and praises of Menahem Begin Dayan extended a considerable amount of carte blanche to further Israeli concessions at Camp David. This carte blanche, as already stated, was given very substantial confirmation and approval in Eliyahu Lankin's declaration: "If Begin makes additional concessions--we shall obey," and the heavy-handed threat made by Pessah Grupper: "If Gush Emunim goes out against the government, we will defend it with bulldozers." Now that Begin has been given a free hand to show moderation and flexibility he will presumably wish to furnish himself with a free hand in the opposite direction as well. The Likud faction in the Knesset and the cabinet have heard and will continue to hear "no's," and not only "yes," where additional Israeli concessions are concerned.

This is how Begin warned his Knesset faction the day before yesterday of the possibility of an impasse at Camp David, and of a period of heavy pressure, and even reminded the faction that as opposed to the need for settlement there is also the need for friendship with the United States. Parenthetically Begin revealed the fact that the chief goal of Israel's policy is not the bringing about of peace with Egypt--which seems far away now--but to nurture its friendship with the United States--a goal that is both vital and possible, if we are prepared to pay the price of concessions for it. Begin was given carte blanche for moderation and flexibility in order to avert a crisis at the Camp David meeting. The present Israel Government will be prepared to make many and surprising concessions in order to reach understanding and joint agreement with the United States. It is worth bearing in mind that Begin is going to Camp David equipped with confirmation and proof of the moderation and flexibility he possesses. If he is obstinate and refuses U.S. and Egyptian demands Begin can claim wholeheartedly that he is doing so out of deep conviction and not out of fear of a lack of support from within his camp.

NATIONAL LEADERS DISCUSS LEBANON SITUATION

TA281008Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman MK Moshe Arens said that the Syrian president and the Syrian Army must not be permitted to take advantage of the Camp David conference to annihilate the Christians in Lebanon.

We must make this unequivocally clear to the Syrians, Professor Arens told our political correspondent after two meetings today with Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the issue of Lebanon.

At the first meeting the chairman of the subcommittee for Lebanese affairs of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MK Yig'al Allon, also participated. He said that there is general consensus in the committee on the serious situation in Lebanon. Likud representatives in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MKs Lin, Livni and Grupper, came to the second meeting with the prime minister.

Arens on Lebanon Crisis

TA281328Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpts] In Jerusalem representatives of two Knesset committees--the Foreign Affairs and Defense and a subcommittee on Lebanon--called on Prime Minister Begin. David Essing reports: [begin recording]

The Knesset members told the prime minister of their grave concern for Lebanon's Christians. Moshe Arens, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says the Syrian Army has now opened a second front against the Christians.

[Arens] After hammering away with tanks and artillery at the civilian population in Beirut for the last few weeks they have now started attacking Christian villages in the north, using helicopters and commandos. In one village the day before yesterday they killed 60 villagers and it is clear that they are trying to bring about a separation between the Christian forces in Beirut and the Christian forces in the north. It is possible that the Syrian Army or Syrian President al-Asad would like to use the Camp David talks as a cover, and while Mr Begin and Mr as-Sadat and Mr Carter are at Camp David discussing Middle East peace, to use the opportunity to destroy the Christian population there.

[Question] What does Moshe Arens feel about Israeli intervention in Lebanon?

[Arens] We did not agree on any specific recommendations. There are still a number of consultations that have to be held and meetings and things to be looked into, but generally I think that all of us are agreed that we are not going to stand by idly if the Christian population is going to be massacred in Lebanon.

[Question] Does that mean military intervention?

[Answer] Well, there are many things that you can think of and, in my opinion, it doesn't have to come to that. I think if the Syrian Army and the Syrian president understand that this is our position, and it would be a great deal better if he understood that this is also the position of the administration in Washington, then I don't think we will ever have to think seriously about any military moves.

[Question] Is Washington putting pressure on Israel today not to act in Lebanon?

[Answer] My impression is that the Carter administration up to this point has provided at least tacit support to the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon. I think that this tacit support is to some extent responsible for the irresponsible acts of the Syrian Army in Lebanon. We are hoping that we can convince the administration in Washington that the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon is not a positive factor--not a positive factor for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and certainly a very negative factor for the future of the Christian population.

Intervention Urged

TA282027Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin today expressed concern over the fate of the Christians in Lebanon following the current Syrian offensive. The prime minister explained to the members of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who came to see him, the political limitations on any sort of action in Lebanon at this time. The committee members went to the prime minister after an urgent meeting yesterday as the subcommittee on Lebanon affairs. Knesset correspondent Nahman Shay reports: [begin videotape]

The prime minister's office in Jerusalem sees very clearly the parallel processes, and this is no coincidence: the Syrian push in Lebanon and the preparations for Camp David; a fact pointed out by the prime minister. Moshe Arens told the prime minister: The Syrians must not be permitted to destroy the Christians in Lebanon under the cover of Camp David. Yig'al Allon gave the prime minister, and then the journalists, a review of the current Syrian direction. The Syrians, he said, want to split up the Maronite territory in northern Lebanon and, in this way, endanger the existence of the Christians there.

[Allon] We wanted to hear from the prime minister the cabinet's evaluation of the situation; what can still be done, first and foremost via diplomatic measures, but also to try and find out other possibilities in order to deter the Syrians from carrying out their plot.

[Shay] Would you say that there is understanding between you and the prime minister on the gravity of what is now happening in all of Lebanon?

[Allon] Yes, first of all we were able to verify several facts for ourselves and several evaluations and it was also important to hear them from the cabinet and not only from the experts.

[Shay] The Likud representatives on the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee initiated an appeal of their own to the prime minister. They came to demand vigorous action to save the Christians in Lebanon.

[MK Pesah Grupper] We are unanimous about intervention; about the form of the intervention I will not tell you what we think, but certainly intervention.

[Shay] For the sake of the Christians?

[Grupper] For the sake of the Christians, because we think that this is already beginning to endanger the security of Israel.

[Shay] To conclude, I learned that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, at its next meeting, tomorrow, will again discuss the situation in Lebanon. We do not intend, at this stage, to let things remain as they are on this matter, members of the committee told me today.

CHRISTIAN SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED ON SYRIAN ATTACKS

TA2818172 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The renewal of the Syrian offensives in northern Lebanon against the concentrations of Christians and the Phalangist bases has increased the tension and the alertness among the Phalangist units and the militias in southern Lebanon. For the first time in a month there were also exchanges of fire last night between the terrorists and the Phalangists. The commanders of the Phalangists fear that the terrorists are acting in coordination with Syria in order to cause a flareup in the south as well, on the eve of the Camp David conference. The militia units and the Phalangists have declared an alert and our correspondent in the north, Yehezqel Hame'iri, spoke with the spokesman of the militias in southern Lebanon. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Rizq, is the renewal of the Syrian offensive in northern Lebanon affecting you here in the south?

[Answer] Of course. We are a part of this people and you know, the Syrians want to control Lebanon, all of Lebanon, not only north of Beirut or Beirut; they also want to close the door between us and to control Lebanon and to commit genocide, directly against the Christians.

[Question] Why are the offensives being concentrated, in your opinion, just in the region of Juniyah on the coast?

[Answer] You know that there is a port there and it is the only place which will receive aid, where they will receive aid from us, the Christians, and they want to conquer this port and be finished with this port. Maybe they think that aid will come via this port from Israel, from other countries. [as heard]

[Question] Do you see any sort of link between last night's shooting by the terrorists at Al-Qulay'ah and the Syrian offensives in northern Lebanon?

[Answer] Maybe they want to check out whether Israel is prepared to help the Christians; also to see if we are prepared, because there are talks at Camp David and they think that we will not have help from Israel. Because of this they are opposing us and coming to make problems; maybe to oppose the talks which will be held at Camp David.

[Question] Have you more hopes from the new pope who has been elected, that he will act more, do more for you?

[Answer] You know that I always hope, but I beg the new pope not to be as the late pope was, that he should feel with us, that he should recognize the State of Israel which helped us, that he should send ambassadors to Jerusalem and it will be better.

[Question] Reports have been published to the effect that Camille Sham'un met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. What is the truth, in your view, of these rumors?

[Answer] I had not heard about this. We have had no news from Beirut, but if he did meet with Mr Begin I will be happier and I will beless the talks there. I know one thing: the Christians in Lebanon and the Jews in Israel have one fate and we must stand together, shoulder to shoulder against the fanatics who want to destroy both the Christians and the Jews. [end recording]

NAVY SEIZES 'TERRORIST' BOAT OFF NORTHERN COAST

TA281744Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[Text] On Saturday at around 2000 GMT an Israeli Navy ship captured a boat carrying two terrorists. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. The seizure occurred during a routine patrol of the coastal waters in the area of Rosh Haniqra. The terrorists had weapons, equipment and explosives with them. They are being interrogated.

CURFEW IMPOSED IN REFUGEE CAMP NEAR NABULUS

TA280940Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Aug 78 p 16 TA

[By Yosef Walter]

[Text] The defense forces yesterday imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after an IDF patrol had been attacked while patroling the camp. The curfew was to be lifted this morning.

Yesterday evening a border police patrol was passing through the center of the refugee camp when an unidentified person suddenly appeared from one of the side streets and threw a fire bomb at the vehicle; it caught fire, but no one was hurt and the fire was extinguished before any damage was caused. The person was chased but not caught. Curfew was immediately imposed on the camp and a wide-scale search begun together with the detention of suspects.

POLICE STEP UP PRECAUTIONS IN WAKE OF TERRORIST ACTS

TA251817Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The police commander of the southern district is holding consultations with senior police officers about intensifying the war against terrorist attempts to carry out acts of sabotage, following an increasing number of sabotage attempts in the capital and other places. Recently, shop owners, market-stall owners, bus drivers and workers in public places were briefed on the prevention of sabotage.

Commander Ivzan said it was due to the vigilance of the public that serious disasters have been prevented recently.

Security forces put up barriers on the roads in the south and in the central district to prevent the transit of sabotage devices from the territories into areas this side of the green line. Suspicious vehicles are being carefully searched.

RA'ANAN WEITZ INTERVIEWED ON HIS SETTLEMENT VIEWS

TA251739Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 25 Aug 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] In an interview with correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Prof Ra'anan Weitz discusses the defense concept behind the establishment of the settlements in the Jordan Valley in the last decade. [begin recording]

[Weitz] The erection of the settlement barrier along the Jordan River does not have a military purpose behind it. It is there for a security reason and one should distinguish between the two. The purpose of erecting this barrier is to guarantee that Judaea and Samaria will always be demilitarized, that what Begin cites to frighten girls and mothers will not happen--namely, that cannons and tanks will not be deployed a few kilometers from Netanya.

The establishment of a permanent settlement barrier as an integral part of the State of Israel will enable us not to annex the West Bank and will enable us to comply with a condition that the Arabs would die over rather than not have fulfilled--recognition of the right of the residents there to self-determination. This barrier is an absolute condition to our agreement to their absolute condition.

[Question] What is this condition?

[Answer] This condition is the establishment of a blocking settlement barrier that will connect Bet She'an with settlements along the Dead Sea and that will guarantee that the entire area stretching between the Jordan River and the State of Israel will be meaningfully demilitarized. This will do away with the need for treaties or promises.

[Question] I understand that this is also the concept underlying the old plan of the Settlement Department to set up additional settlements spoken of recently.

[Answer] This is very true. We have planned two stages in the Jordan Valley. In the first stage we relied on local water resources found through drilling and we have set up about 18 settlements there. In order to maintain the barrier which rests on two chains of settlements--the one down in the valley and the other on the Golan Heights in places where there are no villages, thus not interfering with Arab-populated areas--we should now build a pipeline that will carry 15 million cubic meters of water from the Kinneret along the Jordan Valley. This, in addition to the water coming from drilling, will enable us to erect an additional 17 settlements. This way the barrier, including the urban center of Ma'ale Efrayim located in its center, will be a settlement barrier which is inseparable from the State of Israel.

[Question] Did you take the political timing into consideration?

[Answer] We are drawing up regular settlement plans. We keep plans in our drawers for various answers and alternatives. The implementation should be coordinated with political moves, which we do not control of course; this is controlled by the policymakers. I do not say that a settlement should be set up and loudly announced precisely during delicate negotiations. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, I think, when we ultimately get to the point of serious discussions about peace then the peace treaty will have to lean on: A. That we will recognize the right to self-determination of the Palestinians; B. They will recognize our right to see to it that all areas vital for our existence will remain demilitarized, not according to promises and paper treaties but according to the existence of settlements, which guarantees this.

I think that after a transitional 5-year period of autonomous administrative rule, when the residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, are asked to decide their fate, they will have three possibilities open to them: A. to be part of Jordan--to form a confederation with Jordan; B. to set up a cantonal federation with Israel, which is a good possibility; and C. to set up their own Palestinian state. I believe that the last solution or possibility should not frighten us at all since, if we sit along the eastern line, this state will not be able to serve as a base for sudden attacks on us--of which everyone is apprehensive.

[Question] Are you a partner to the concept that what may be done in the settlement sphere today may not be possible in time because of political constraints?

[Answer] No. Since I believe in a peace treaty and agreement, since I think that the other party will consent to what is imperative for us, I therefore do not think that today we find a policy of snatch and catch as catch can. On the other hand, I believe that any additional settlement inside the areas densely populated with Arabs is a grave mistake for two reasons: first, the political reason, since such settlement will mar the basic need of the Egyptians and all Arabs in general, the condition for which they would rather die than see unfulfilled; second, for us this will be seize all or lose all.

I have tallied up for myself the financial and manpower means we possess and reached the conclusion that we should concentrate on those areas which are most important for us--Jerusalem, the Galilee, the security barrier. I wish we would be able to build up all these things. [end recording]

MAPAM, Gush Emunim on Weitz Statement

TA251222Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpt] MAPAM secretary, MK Me'ir Talmi, said that MAPAM rejects Weitz's plan in its two parts. The Palestinian problem must find its solution in connection with Jordan, he said, on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal and border alterations made on the basis of Israel's security needs. Beyond the points of disagreement on the issue of the future of the West Bank, Talmi said that the timing of the statement is to be regretted.

Talmi added that things had not yet calmed down after the proposal for setting up the five settlements, when this statement by Weitz came, only to serve as another obstacle on the way of the negotiations for peace--something which is to be regretted.

The Gush Emunum leaders, too, did not like Weitz's remark. We regard Ra'anan Weitz's words very seriously and we think that by saying these things he has disqualified himself as the Jewish Agency Settlement Division chairman. This is what Hanan Porat, one of the Gush Emunim leaders, said to correspondent Gad Shimron. Hanan Porat added that from now on, Gush Emunim regards Weitz's term of office as a mere episode. This is in reaction to Weitz's declaration that the Gush Emunim settlements are only a passing episode in the history of the settlement movement. Our settlements will thrive when this episode of Ra'anan Weitz's office is forgotten, Hanan Porat said. Gush Emunim thinks that it is absurd to think that a thin line of settlements along the Jordan River Valley can play its role when a Palestinian state is at its back.

Labor Party Opposes Weitz

TA251022Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The Labor Party has expressed reservations on Settlement Division head Ra'anan Weitz's plan. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says that the Alinement completely objects to establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank.

Peres told correspondent Sara Frankel that the objection to the establishment of such a state was stated in the Alinement platform and was not changed even following As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Professor Weitz's statement that the Arabs would rather die than give up the idea of such a state is, as Peres calls it, erroneous. In his opinion, the Palestinians have never been satisfied with the establishment of such a state.

Weitz Criticizes Labor Party

TA290736Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Ra'anan Weitz charges that no one who has criticized his proposal for the West Bank has actually read it. In a letter of protest to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres about the outcry surrounding his ideas, Weitz claimed that his plan is identical with Labor Party policy.

Weitz, the head of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, came out with a plan that includes the option of allowing Palestinian self-determination in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if the Arabs allow the Isrealis to settle in northern Sinai and along the Jordan River.

Peres said the Labor Party rejects any notion of a Palestinian state.

Zionist Executive Rejects Weitz Plan

TA290830Y Jerusalem POST in English 29 Aug 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The Zionist Executive expressed dissatisfaction yesterday with the concept of a Palestinian state raised publicly last week by Prof Ra'anan Weitz.

Weitz, who is also a member of the Executive, is co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department.

Weitz's proposal was the subject of a heated debate in the Executive that lasted several hours. Weitz told the Jerusalem POST last night that he did not plan to resign and would continue to fight for his ideas.

At yesterday's meeting, members demanded to know who had authorized Weitz to refrain from planning settlements in Judaea and Samaria because he saw this as part of a possible Palestinian state. They also asked who had authorized him to publicize his settlement master plan, and whether he could continue to serve as head of the Settlement Department and faithfully implement decisions for creating settlements on the West Bank.

Executive Chairman Arye Dulzin said the Executive was bound by decisions of the last Zionist congress, which included a clear statement of the right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el, and which specifically ruled out a Palestinian state.

At the end of the debate the Executive adopted a motion summarizing the discussion, which stressed that Weitz's statement reflected his personal views and not the policy of the World Zionist Organization. It said the Executive was "disturbed" by the Weitz plan, including, as it did, the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state.

The decision "drew attention to the fact that the decisive majority of the delegates to the 29th Zionist Congress and members of the Knesset rejected the establishment of a separate Palestinian state west of the Jordan."

Weitz himself voted for the proposal, as did all but two members of the Executive, Matityahu Drobles (Weitz's co-chairman) and Eli'ezer Tavin, both of Herut, abstained.

The executive of the Likud Knesset faction yesterday demanded Weitz's dismissal from his post as Settlement Department co-chairman. Faction Chairman Avraham Sharir told the Jerusalem POST last night that he expects to meet Dulzin within a day or two to discuss the matter. He called Weitz' suggestion "tantamount to stabbing the nation in the back on the eve of the Camp David summit."

EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTS TO RENOVATE AL-AQSA MOSQUE

TA2818337 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Reports reaching us from various sources say that the deputy prime minister of Egypt for presidential affairs, Dr Hasan at-Tuhami, informed the mayor of Jerusalem in writing that Egyptian architects are now completing the plan for the construction of a new prayer stall in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Egyptian architects will come to Jerusalem in the next few weeks to plan the work of renovating Al-Aqsa Mosque.

At the beginning of the week a personal messenger from the deputy prime minister of Egypt, Hasan at-Tuhami, came to Jerusalem. With this messenger was a letter to the mayor. The letter was written in English. The letter contained the information that Egyptian architects would indeed come work on renovating Al-Aqsa Mosque.

During President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem less than a year ago, the president said that he intended to help with the renovation of the mosque which was set on fire by an Australian tourist in August 1969. A joint announcement was issued on this matter, at the request of President as-Sadat, by Dr at-Tuhami and the mayor of Jerusalem.

In his letter, among other things, Dr at-Tuhami says that Israeli-Egyptian cooperation in renovating Al-Aqsa Mosque represents something of a breakthrough concerning the obstacles of darkness which clouded the possibility of coexistence or the nations in the region in the past.

The mayor says in his answering remarks that the Egyptians will be welcome visitors to Jerusalem and that the municipality will do (?all it can) in accordance with its policy that all the places sacred to all the faiths must be taken care of, and free access to them maintained.

Initial reactions: A member of the municipal council, Gershon Salomon, who is, as is well known, one of the activists pressing for the holding of Jewish prayers on the Temple Mount, is emphatically opposed to the arrival of the architects. In an announcement he said that the idea served As-Sadat's aim, which in fact first manifested itself in the Egyptian president's visit to the Temple Mount. In the Ministry of Religion they are saying: We were surprised; we did not receive any announcement on the matter. The matter was not coordinated with us, despite the fact that we are appointed to watch over the holy sites.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

LD282259Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami took part in an interview with our colleague Safar Ha'eri and discussed the priorities of the new government's program: [begin recording]

[Sharif-Emami] The program of priorities which we contemplate at present is to remove differences between the various strata and to bring about complete understanding between groups so that we will be able to create a genuine tranquillity among them and then see to the constructive work [word indistinct] in the country.

[Question] [Word indistinct] of the Abadan fire, but the actual perpetrators have not been found yet [words indistinct].

[Answer] The regrettable incident which took place is the work of a number of saboteurs. Unfortunately, we have not been able to arrest them. But something has occurred which could be a valuable tip, and there is great hope that we will arrest those who committed this abominable act. God willing, the issue will be fully clarified so as to end the arbitrary accusations being made by (?various groups), some of whom attribute this to the government, which is very regrettable. The people are so pessimistic about the government that they attribute such an abominable deed to it, for it is very farfetched, and no reasonable man could accept that the government would do such a thing against its own interests and those of the country. Of course, when differences of views occur, considerations of reason and logic are ignored.

Arbitrary statements are being made which confuse the public, confuse those who are not careful and well-informed. But I have hope that, God willing, we will achieve the desired result from the measures taken--to arrest the perpetrators of this very abominable incident so that all the people who regard one another as responsible for this incident can be cleared.

[Question] [Words indistinct] could you comment on the goals of the new cabinet?

[Answer] They could not be interpreted as fundamental changes. We have given priority to a number of subjects, which I suppose is quite natural. For example, we have put agriculture at the top of our priorities, for every country should endeavor to satisfy its agricultural needs by itself; the expression for this is to achieve self-sufficiency.

For, God forbid, if our hands are stretched abroad to (?obtain) food and our daily requirements, we can never have real economic independence. For this reason, a special priority has been given to agriculture. But there are other issues which, from the standpoint of public welfare, ought to receive attention. In this respect, we will pay special attention to villages and hamlets. We should endeavor in the first place to provide them with water, power, medicine and roads so that they too, as far as our possibilities permit, enjoy a relatively improved welfare.

[Question] You have spoken of national reconciliation and of confronting several opposition fronts. What ways are (?being considered) to bring to fruition attempts at national reconciliation and to gain the support of opposition fronts?

[Answer] Differences that have arisen are due to the lack of contact. If we come into contact with the various groups, however, many will be resolved.

If they have complaints they should let us know. If they use an improper word, we should let them know that this word, act or demand is improper. In this way, I feel that our differences with those who have genuine good will but are dissenting, can be removed. If they are illegitimate or illogical demands, we will point out that these are illogical for one reason or another and are not correct, and, normally, they ought to be satisfied. In this way, I think that full understanding will, God willing, be created between all groups.

[Question] In view of this, could I infer that [word indistinct] and vital issues, you will consult the opposition groups and ask for their views?

[Answer] Of course, we will contact those who are in the leading role and will talk to them. But we will not immediately contact and talk to anyone who presents himself as the leader of such and such a group. They ought to be classified; we will talk to those who are credible and rank first, followed by the second, third and so forth. We will try to create an atmosphere where contact with every group will no longer be needed.

They should, after ascertaining the issues, tell us what they are, so that perhaps there will be no need for us to talk to each one of them. But we will, for example, definitely contact the religious leaders. I will definitely contact and talk with leading religious personages for whom I have special regard, in order to resolve the differences. Those who have something to say will receive special attention. In this way, I have great hope that, God willing, all differences will be removed.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, a (?problem) that has emerged, which may have been a major area of occupation for the country, and on which many people have promised to take action, is the campaign against corruption. How would you (?deal) with this issue? You have also promised a campaign.

[Answer] Of course, corruption can take various forms. But in the public mind, corruption means incidents in which certain individuals abuse their administrative position and government powers for their own benefit or for the benefit of various other persons; or have violated the rights of others. Of course, this is what is (?reflected) [words indistinct] in the public mind in the first place. We will try to make a careful study of these and to prepare documents on misdemeanors in order to send them to courts with decisive documentary evidence. Obviously, when they are tried in the courts, a final decision can be taken about them. In this way, the lack of trust, care and faith in the machinery can be removed. For, unfortunately, in the past some individuals have been charged and sent to court without the existence of decisive documentary evidence. After some time, they have been freed and no result has been obtained. The people are, to some extent, dissatisfied on this account; they think that any corrupt person has been sent to the court in order to be tortured. Of course, we will not do this. We will try to follow up on the people we send to court until the final result is reached so that the people are informed that the matter is serious, and the government will act decisively in this respect.

[Question] (?Allow me, after dealing with) internal issues, to ask about foreign policy. Will we continue our existing foreign policy, or interrupt it?

[Answer] The principles of our foreign policy have always been clear, and I think they will not change. What has been in the interest of our country--with roots going well into the past--will, of course, remain the same. If something emerges which, from the standpoint of the country's interests, requires a review, of course the responsible organizations will do so. But at present, we will not say that we are changing the foreign policy. [end recording]

Interviewed After Cabinet Meeting

LD2822582 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The second cabinet session was held under Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami, at the Prime Ministry at 1700 today. At the end of this session, which continued until 2145 tonight, Mr Ja'far Sharif-Emami was interviewed by our correspondent, Berahman Shirzad. Mr Ja'far Sharif-Emami said that today's cabinet session considered the programs of the ministries of justice, labor and social affairs, science and higher education, housing development, and commerce. Here is what Mr Ja'far Sharif-Emami said in answering our correspondent's questions. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Sharif-Emami, could you say what important issues were discussed at the lengthy cabinet session this evening?

[Answer] As you know, the government was to make the necessary studies on its own program. It was arranged for each ministry to make the necessary studies with regard to their own affairs and prepare their draft programs for the cabinet discussion. As we had to take certain new measures, the discussion over the program became very lengthy. We were able to discuss the programs of the ministries of justice, labor, science and higher education, housing development and commerce. Unfortunately, as the discussion became very extended, we could not get to the programs of the rest of the ministries and they were left for a later session. Of course, you are aware that the preparation of a program, in view of the necessary points to be taken into consideration, requires ample discussion and plenty of time to enable us to prepare a comprehensive program. I think, perhaps, we may hold two other meetings in order to prepare our program.

[Question] Mr Sharif-Emami, it is late at night; I know that you and your colleagues are very tired. What I would like to ask is: Right now, 14 parties have announced their existence. From the viewpoint of the government, is there or is there not a program under which everyone would be able to create a party?

[Answer] We have (?said) that parties are free and anyone who wishes to form a party or take part in one will not be prevented. But I think that these very small parties which do not have any root and grow like [word indistinct]; I do not imagine they will receive a large welcome from the public or attract considerable followings. Of course, the future will tell us as to the formation of these parties and the extent of the public welcome. But as we have announced, the emphasis is on the freedom of parties; if someone wishes to form a party, there is no difficulty ahead. But they will see the result they attain at the end of the day.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what is your view on the issue of the number of prisoners to be released?

[Answer] Those who [word indistinct] had difficulties will be included; those whose deeds are negligible will not be left out. But [words indistinct] will be released; they ought to know themselves that this is not correct. After all, the country has an order, a law and ought to act in accordance with the law. We will propose whatever number can be pardoned under the law and whose amnesty can be proposed in accordance with the law. [end recording]

TEHRAN: IRAQ ARRESTS PERPETRATOR OF ABADAN CRIME

LD290912Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0[illegible] g 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran's morning newspapers today, quoting [illegible] gencies, report: The perpetrator of the fire at the Rex cinema in Abadan has been arrested in Iraq. [illegible] official news agency, quoting the Iraqi Interior Ministry [illegible], said: A man by the name of Hashem 'Abdorreza Ashur has confessed that he took part in the conspiracy to set fire to Abadan's Rex cinema and several other plots in Iraq. According to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, this man is an Iranian citizen who entered Iraqi territory illegally on 25 August.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman announced that the accused will be extradited to Iran. The Iranian authorities have been informed, but the date for the extradition of the perpetrator of the Abadan catastrophe has not been revealed yet.

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES IRAN TO USE RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

LD280936Y Tehran PARS in English 0754 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 27 Aug PANA (PARS News Agency)--The new prime minister, Ja'far Sharif-Emami, today announced that the official calendar of Iran would be the shamsi (solar year) calendar. The shamsi calendar year begins on March 21 and is based on the Prophet Mohammed's departure from Mecca to Medina. According to the shamsi calendar, the present year is 1357. The shahanshahi, lunar and Christian years will be used as is necessary.

'ID AL-FITR DECLARED OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

LD281754Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has announced that, effective today, the auspicious day of 'Id al-Fitr will be an official holiday for workers. This was discussed and approved at the second cabinet session.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF RASTAKHIZ PARTY NAMED

LD282212Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] It was announced today that Dr Javad Sa'id has been appointed as the only deputy secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party.

FOUR ARMY OFFICERS TO BE RETIRED 23 SEPTEMBER

LD281154Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Lieutenant General Dr Ayadi, Lieutenant General Katuzian, Lieutenant General Sheja'i and Lieutenant General Mani'i are to be retired on 23 September. Each year a number of senior army officers are retired in accordance with the regulations.

AFGHANIST'N

PDP POLITICAL BUREAU MEETS; THREE NEW MINISTERS NAMED

LD282126Y Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD

[Text] A [word indistinct] session of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was held under the chairmanship of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki between 0900 and 1000 this morning. (?At the session) the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister (?mentioned) the appointment of Comrade Dastagir Panjshiri, former minister of education, as minister of public works; Dr 'Abdorrashid Jalili, associate professor and former rector of Kabul University, as minister of education; and Sahebjan Sahra'i, former governor of Kondoz, as minister of border affairs. These appointments were endorsed by the Political Bureau.

AFP: OVER 100 KILLED IN GOVERNMENT, RIGHTIST CLASHES

BK281328Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 28 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, Aug 28 (AFP)--Over a hundred people have been killed in recent clashes between Afghanistan Government troops and a rightist organisation called Hizb-e-Islami, according to delayed reports reaching here today.

The unofficial reports said clashes had taken place in the middle of August in Kandhar Province and at Argoon, Ghazni and Pakhtia.

However, no official confirmation of these clashes was available from the Afghan consular sources here.

TARAKI ADDRESSES PARTY SECRETARIES 24 AUGUST

LD252048 [Editorial Report LD] Kabul International Service in Russian at 1700 GMT on 25 August carries a poorly heard, announcer-read summary of a speech delivered 24 August by Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Afghan Revolutionary Council and prime minister, at a meeting of People's Democratic Party committee secretaries.

In the speech, Taraki states that the party organized the revolution against the exploiting class in the interest of the people. This struggle is continuing. "Reactionaries and imperialists throughout the world are making every effort to turn history back, but history is irreversible. Up to now we have struggled courageously against the reaction and have liquidated its plots. We shall continue our struggle until the total elimination of the antipopular forces," he says.

Taraki goes on to outline the reforms that are to be carried out in the interest of the people. This process will not be easy, he says, but "we shall not fear difficulties. We must undertake difficult obligations and strictly observe party discipline. We must struggle consistently against skepticism and despair, as reaction conducts [word indistinct] acts against the masses and poisons public opinion."

Taraki continues: "We must wage the political struggle on the basis of working class ideology and must not retreat a single step from our class positions, as the class struggle is the foundation of our struggle. The party struggles in every way against left and right opportunism," he says.

The party has always been slandered by imperialists and reactionaries, Taraki says, but despite their allegations the party has respected the Islamic religion and has done nothing to insult it.

Taraki concludes by saying that the meeting of 24 August will not be the last.

BANGLADESH

PRC TRADE DELEGATION FETED AT DACCA BANQUET

BK2708l4Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 27 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed its solidarity with China to help establish a new international economic order for the welfare of the Third World countries. Speaking at a reception held in honor of the visiting Chinese trade delegation in Dacca last night, the minister for land administration and land reforms, Mr Golam Hafiz, said the people of Bangladesh resolutely stand behind their Chinese brethren in their struggle against expansionism, colonialism and hegemony. He said a new era has ushered in the era of bilateral cooperation between the two countries following President Zia's visit to China, and that of the Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, to Bangladesh.

Mr Golam Hafiz, who is also the president of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Society, expressed the hope that the visit of the Chinese trade delegation will help develop closer trade relations and promote further understanding between the people of the two countries.

In reply, the leader of the Chinese trade delegation, Mr (Kung Ching-hei), said they are very much impressed by the discussions they held with the business community of Bangladesh. He hoped that the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries will be further cemented in years to come through the expansion of economic and cultural cooperation. Mr (Kung Ching-hei) said the Chinese people are happy to see that Bangladesh is marching ahead along the path of progress and prosperity under the dynamic leadership of President Rahman.

INDIA

AFP: PAKISTANI TROOPS FIRE ON INDIAN-CONTROLLED KASHMIR

BK281716Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 28 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 28 (AFP)--Pakistani troops have fired across the control line in disputed Kashmir during the past week, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today.

In a dispatch from Jammu, capital of Indian-held Kashmir, the agency said, quoting "information available" there, that the firings were "unprovoked" and took place at the Poonch and Rajouri sectors of the Jammu region. The Pakistanis used machine guns.

There have also been reports of intrusions by Pakistani soldiers, the agency said.

DELHI REPORTS 165 ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD VIOLENCE

BK291001Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 78 BK

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, 165 persons have been arrested in connection with violent incidents in Sabzi Mandi and nearby areas of Hyderabad. Police have been posted at various points.

An agency report says that there were a few cases of arson late at night. About 15 injured people were admitted into hospitals; one person is reported to have succumbed to his injuries later.

The police have had to use teargas in (Mangalghat) area when a violent mob attacked a police party. The situation in Sabzi Mandi area is (?fairly) under control. The leaders belonging to the Congress and the Janata Party in the state have criticized the state government for its failure to maintain law and order in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.

Situation Under Control

BK2910037Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 78 BK

[Text] In Hyderabad the curfew was relaxed for 3 hours between 0700 and 1000 this morning in the disturbed areas. The Andhra Pradesh home minister, Mr M.M. Hashim, told the state assembly that the situation is well under control.

Meanwhile the number of persons arrested in the area has gone up to 264. Out of 109 persons who were injured in the disturbances, 1 person died last night and the condition of 3 is said to be serious.

NO EVIDENCE OF RADIATION FROM NANDA DEVI DEVICE

BK2514262Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The parliamentary consultative committee attached to the Department of Atomic Energy was today informed that there is no evidence so far of any radioactive material in the upper reaches of the Ganges as a result of the nuclear device lost at Nanda Devi. Regular monitoring of the water, silt and the atmospheric samples is being carried out. The findings of the experts committee, headed by Dr Atma Ram, on the possible danger of the radioactive material of the device getting mixed up with the river water are awaited. The prime minister presided over the meeting.

The committee was also told that the country has enough reserve of uranium ore for production of uranium required for power stations for the present as well as the future. The supply of enriched uranium needed for the Tarapore plant is likely to be available till the end of 1983. The feasibility of using the (laser) method of separation of fissile isotopes for uranium will be known early next year.

Desai on Tarapore Plant

BK2515212Y Bombay PTI in English 1500 GMT 25 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Fuel for the Tarapore nuclear plant in western India is likely to be available til 1983 according to Prime Minister Morarji Desai. Steps were being taken to keep the plant working beyond that date, he said.

Mr Desai was understood to have told the consultative committee for atomic energy here today that some advances had been made in the country on the centrifugal method of uranium enrichment.

Setting up an enrichment plant solely to feed Tarapore plant was, however, ruled by Mr Desai. But the committee was told that the cost estimates were now being made for running the Tarapore plant using a substitute fuel consisting of a uranium plutonium mixture.

Mr Desai told the committee the production of heavy water would begin from next month at the plant at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, while two other plants at Talcher (Orissa) and Kota (Rajasthan) were likely to be commissioned in February and May respectively next year.

Mr Desai also told the committee that India would be willing to sell radio-isotopes to China should that country make a request in this regard. At present China is said to import 80 percent of its radio-isotopes.

AGREEMENT ON RADIO, TV COOPERATION SIGNED WITH SRV

BK281555Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 78 BK

[Text] India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of radio and television in New Delhi this evening.

The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Advani, and Mr Tran Lam, chairman of the State Committee for Radio and Television of Vietnam, signed the agreement. It provides for regular exchange of radio programs depicting various aspects of development in the socioeconomic, scientific and cultural fields between the two countries.

TECHNICAL MISSION TO VISIT SRV TO STUDY COOPERATION

BK260958Y Delhi ISI in English 0846 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] A high-level technical team headed by the secretary of the Department of Heavy Industry will be visiting Vietnam within the next 6 weeks to assess and identify specific areas of cooperation between India and Vietnam. This was decided at a meeting Dang Viet Chau, Vietnamese minister for foreign trade, had with George Fernandes, minister of industry, in New Delhi on 24 August. Dang Viet Chau is now in the capital in connection with the ESCAP trade ministers' conference.

Some of the industries in which cooperation between the two countries is expected are textiles, sugar mills, pulp and paper, and steel and power generation.

The two ministers agreed that the scope for industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries is wide and speedy action should be taken to concretise this. The Vietnamese minister expressed his government's appreciation at the assistance provided by India as a result of the visit of the prime minister of Vietnam earlier this year.

George Fernandes said that despite involvement in its own development programmes, India would be happy to associate to the maximum extent possible with the reconstruction and development of Vietnam. In response to a suggestion by the Vietnamese minister, George Fernandes agreed that Indian firms will also bid for contracts in Vietnam for projects assisted by international agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. This will include power projects and construction projects. India's participation in such international contracts would clearly demonstrate that it is not developed countries alone that are able to participate and compete in most exacting standards. The minister for industry stated that with its growing experience in overseas projects, India is quite confident of holding its own international competition.

Dang Viet Chau also stated that a Vietnamese team led by the president of the State Commission on Science and Technology would shortly be visiting India for expanding areas of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

TRADE TALKS OPENED WITH PRC REPRESENTATIVES

BK290919Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Trade representatives from India and China have begun a 2-day meeting in New Delhi on exploring bilateral trade between them. The program has been organized by the Sino-Indian trade promotion forum.

Opening it the minister of state for commerce, Mr Arif Beg, said there is a scope for developing trade with China.

PAKISTAN

AFP: 16 ARRESTED IN KARACHI PROTESTING PRESS POLICIES

BK261422Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, Aug 26 (AFP)--Another 16 people including journalists and printers have been arrested here in the past 4 days in daily demonstrations against the government's press policies. The total of such arrests stands at 76.

The demonstrations in small groups of four or five persons are being carried out daily at the behest of a group of journalists and printers. The group, despite a strong official denial, repeated its charge yesterday that the arrested persons were being maltreated in jail.

SECOND WHITE PAPER ISSUED ON BHUTTO MISDEEDS

BK281208Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The government today issued a white paper detailing how former Prime Minister Bhutto, who came to power on the basis of a democratic mandate, muzzled the information media to clamp the worst type of regimentation of thought on the nation. Supported by photostats of original documents, including photos and directives given by Mr Bhutto himself, the white paper marshalled evidence to prove how the information media was employed for the character assassination of the opposition, misguiding the people about national problems, policies and disfiguring the national ideology.

The white paper also outlines how the information media was pressed into service for building up Mr Bhutto's personality cult and used virtually as a party organ for unending, one-sided propaganda in favor of his People's Party.

The White paper points out that while in the political wilderness Mr Bhutto had been posing as a stanch believer in the freedom of the press and in his election manifesto for the 1970 polls pledged that the censorship of all news items will be disallowed. But the moment he got into the saddle, he went after the press with full force. The first man to be dismissed by him on the same evening that he assumed power was a journalist, the senior editor of THE PAKISTAN TIMES who had criticized him. That next day he sacked the chairman of the National Press Trust [NPT] and replaced him with his own man.

(?A day after) assuming power, Mr Bhutto (?retracted from his statement that) the NPT was not to be wound up, as demanded by him in a press statement after the March 1970 polls; it only needed to be baptized. By 1976, Mr Bhutto had closed down over three dozen newspapers and periodicals. He could not tolerate any criticism and swung into action, mostly taking punitive measures to browbeat and terrorize both the editors and management of the offending papers. And the action did not remain confined to mere denial of newsprint, then a government monopoly, and retrenchment. He continued to harm them till they broke, coalesced or surrendered and made [words indistinct].

Mr Bhutto had hardly been in power for a fortnight when the first journalist was thorwn behind the bars. He was the editor-in-chief of the DAWN group of newspapers. He was continued to be pursued by Mr Bhutto till he finally succumbed to the pressure and resigned. Mr Bhutto's sensitivity to criticism, according to the white paper, was best demonstrated by the case of THE PAKISTAN ECONOMIST, a weekly of Karachi, which earned Mr Bhutto's wrath by daring to report in one of its issues [words indistinct] President Bhutto. This so infuriated him that he ordered that none of the opposition papers or magazines should receive any preference from (Pim), one of the biggest enterprises in the public sector. Among the newspapers, the daily NAWA-1-WAQT suffered the longest spell of denial of advertisement for its refusal to become a conformist.

The white paper points out the case of the daily JASARAT of Karachi, which had been closed down as a result of both the (?street) power and the administrative wrench used against it.

On 4 November 1972 Mr Bhutto as president wrote a note to the information minister, his special assistant on information, the governor of Punjab and the Sind chief minister in which he said: The daily JASARAT has again become extremely abusive and violent. It is spreading poison among the people against me and the government. If you look at today's JASARAT, you will find it full of violent attacks on us. We must do something effective to put to an end its poisonous and harmful propaganda.

The white paper says: The newsprint and advertisements were the two main instruments which Mr Bhutto used both to chastise the dissenting papers and to patronize the People's Party organs and other pro-PPP [Pakistan People's Party] papers. The two organs of the PPP, namely MUSSAWAT and HILAL-I-PAKISTAN, were particularly showered with government favors, cutting across all prescribed procedures and established norms.

The white paper says: Apart from gagging the national information media, concerted efforts were made to choke up all criticism and any factual reporting by the overseas Pakistani press. The Urdu weekly AWAM published from London aroused the wrath of Mr Bhutto the most for writing about his role in the break-up of Pakistan, his suppression of political opposition and misuse of public funds.

Another feature of the official media fully identified with the People's Party and made a dependable instrument of party projection, workers and supporters of the People's Party were inducted into them. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, attempts were made to weed out persons not favorably disposed toward the PPP.

The white paper says: During the entire period of Mr Bhutto's regime, expenditures on questionable ventures like personal image-building, PPP propaganda, character assassination of the opposition and even spying on them were financed from the special publicity fund at the disposal of the Information Ministry.

Political purposes apart, Mr Bhutto used this fund even to meet the personal needs of his favorites. One of these cases related to (Pir Amir Mohammad Lashari), adviser of information.

The white paper provides deep insight into the manipulation of the information media by Mr Bhutto to build up his image in three dimensions: one, as the supreme leader of Pakistan without peer; two, as the leader of Asia; and finally as the leader of the Third World.

After the election the official media were asked to lash out at the opposition and paint them as enemies of democracy and as the agents of chaos. This only built up popular resentment. However, Mr Bhutto continued to believe that he would be able to retrieve his position through deft manipulation of the media, but no campaign availed in the end [as heard].

BRIEFS

AFGHAN OIL, GAS DEPOSITS--Thanks to the continued efforts of the workers of the Afghanistan National Oil Institute [ANOI] and cooperation by experts from the friendly USSR, the existence of oil and gas has been established in Ahmadabad region in Kohsen District of Herat Province. Eng Soltan 'Aziz, head of the ANOI branchin Herat, said: 2 days ago, as a result of drilling work in the first exploration zone of Ahmadabad, 90 kilometers from the town of Herat, which began on 27 July, a large area of oil and gas was discovered by ANOI workers at a depth of 601 meters. He added that further comprehensive exploration in this area continues by ANOI and foreign experts. [Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD]

AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY HEAD--On the basis of a proposal from the Ministry of Information and Culture, approved by the Supreme Council of Ministers and endorsed by Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and premier, Mohammad 'Ayan ('Ayal) has been appointed as head of the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Aug 78 LD]

PAKISTAN SHIPPING DELEGATION TO PRC--A four-member Karachi shipyard team left Karachi for Peking this afternoon. The team will hold talks with the Chinese authorities to finalize technical details on building bulk carrier ships for China. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 78 BK].

SOVIET DELEGATION IN PAKISTAN--The visiting two-member Soviet cultural delegation on 25 August visited the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 78 BK]

JAPANESE GRANT TO NEPAL--Japan is to provide grant assistance of 76.9 million rupees for the development of foodgrain production and the construction of (?health schools) and health laboratories in Nepal. Two separate agreements to this effect were signed in Katmandu on 27 August between the Governments of Nepal and Japan. [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 27 Aug 78 BK]

ALGERIAN DELEGATION IN INDIA--A nine-member official Algerian delegation is now in Delhi. The delegation, which arrived on August 27, includes representatives of the Algerian ministeries of commerce, light industry, heavy industry, agriculture and petroleum. Representatives of some state organisations are also included in the delegation, reports PTI. [Text] [Delhi ISI in English 0834 GMT 29 Aug 78 BK]

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